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Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty Finalized

LD2202153492 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels February 22—Countries participants to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe reached an agreement regarding procedure of putting it into effect. This accord was arrived at on Friday [21 February] in NATO's Brussels headquarter during a meeting of the high ranking working groups formed for considering problems that emerged as a result of the changes in the eastern part of the continent since signing of the treaty in 1990. Among those who took part in the meeting were representatives of countries of NATO, Eastern Europe, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and also eight states formed on the territory of the former Soviet Union, which come into the zone covered by the treaty.

The plan of action adopted in the meeting envisages two stages. In the first stage the countries of the former Soviet Union must decide among themselves about the distribution of commitments ensuing from the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe in such a way that their combined strength will not exceed the commitments made by the former Soviet Union at the time of signing the treaty. The commitments will be fixed at the extraordinary conference, which, according to sources close to NATO, is scheduled to be held by the end of May 1992. It will form a basis for putting the treaty into effect.

In the second stage the member states, which will automatically include former Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union being situated in the zone covered by the treaty, will ratify it, and it will come into force ten days after the submission of the instruments of ratification. This process is expected to be completed by the scheduled for July meeting of the heads of state and government of member countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

NATO Conference on Collective Security Held

LD2102232192 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Skriprikov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb (TASS)—An international conference on problems of collective security completed three days of work today in the building of the Russian Academy of Management. Taking part in it were experts representing the Armed Forces of the CIS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, scientific and military institutes, independent research associations, the permanent missions of the CIS countries in Moscow, foreign embassies, and also NATO.

Contacts today and in the future between military and civilian experts of NATO and the CIS have "bright prospects," said NATO General (Jack Dangerfield), answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He said that NATO is planning a series of meetings with the defense ministers of Eastern states in April of this year with the object of working out joint plans for activity in the military sphere for next year.

Vilnius Seminar Favors Nuclear Free Zone

OW2402231992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1820 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Participants in the international seminar "Security, Stability and Trust in Eastern Europe" going on in Vilnius have stressed the importance of creating a nuclear-free zone in Europe, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. They expressed hope that this zone would expand gradually getting rid of offensive weapons.

Taking into account Sweden's atomic power stations control initiatives, participants in the seminar spoke in favor of setting up an international inspection team with participation of representatives from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Participants in the seminar believe it is necessary to create within the CSCE framework an international body on prevention of conflicts on the territory of member countries.

Kozyrev on Shift From Arms to Human Rights

924P0083A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 92 p 2

[RIA report by Vladimir Markov specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Russia Is Disarming, Having Armed Itself with Human Rights: New Aspects of Russia's Policy Were Presented in Geneva by the Russian Foreign Minister"]

[Text] Geneva—A solution to the problem of retargeting strategic missiles, most eye-catching politically and most intricate from the technical viewpoint, was proposed—unexpectedly for the majority of observers—on 12 February by Andrey Kozyrev, addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

First, the total lifting of alert status from the strategic forces of Russia, the United States, and the other nuclear powers targeted on one another's territory and facilities. Nuclear weapons' "zero combat readiness" would thereby be achieved.

Second, the separate storage of the nuclear delivery systems and the warheads. That is, the intercontinental ballistic missiles would be on the launchers without warheads, the nuclear missiles on submarines would be unloaded from them, the submarines themselves would be at their home ports, and the nuclear arms of heavy bombers, in centralized storage. As the experts accompanying A. Kozyrev to Geneva explained to me, such a step would remove the majority of doubts regarding the fact that the retargeting of the missiles cannot, allegedly, be monitored. As distinct from a change in the missiles' electronic control and guidance program, separate storage of the delivery systems and the warheads could be monitored from space. In addition, other control measures could be agreed also.

The third and fourth ideas expressed by the Russian minister in this connection concern a "cardinal reassessment of the entire military-strategic situation," including nuclear doctrines and a return to the proposal concerning control of nuclear weapons on the part of an international organization, the United Nations, say. Essentially, as the Russian experts observed, the latter idea revives the American Baruch Plan.

Aside from this, A. Kozyrev set forth in addition a whole number of initiatives, which Moscow had not previously expressed in such a form. These included an exchange of information of all the nuclear powers on the quantity and types of available nuclear warheads and materials and the facilities for the production, storage, and elimination of nuclear weapons. Also included was Russia's consent to subscribe to the conditions of the control of missile technology adopted by a number of leading Western countries and a readiness to abide by—Western once again—"the guiding principles of arms trading" approved last year in London. Incidentally this fact, experts believe, is of significance with respect also to the policy of the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in this sphere, particularly from the viewpoint of the prevention of unlawful and destabilizing supplies of weapons to crisis regions.

The Russian minister also provided a more specific interpretation of the idea of the creation of a "joint global system of protection in place of the American SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative]": It presupposes joint research, which "would help solve the problem of preventing a 'brain drain' from the defense complex of the nuclear and space states." The results of this work could be used "for peaceful purposes in the interests of the entire international community."

The Russian side considers the priority task the conclusion this year even of an international convention completely banning and eliminating chemical weapons. Russia itself alone has been forced to appeal for Western, primarily American, assistance to destroy 40,000 tonnes of war gases.

A. Kozyrev made quite a sensational statement after his speech at the Conference on Disarmament, in a paper he delivered that same day in the Geneva Institute for International Research on the subject "Russia's New Look in the International Arena." The point being that he was perhaps the first Russian official to call in question the "holy of holies"—the concept of strategic parity. "A renewed Russia does not see the need to constantly maintain parity and does not aspire to have as many arms as the United States or any other power," the minister said, thereby giving a new boost to the debate in our country, which will not culminate in national consensus any time soon.

On Wednesday [12 February], on the other hand, the Russian minister not only set forth a position of principle in respect of the primacy of human rights at the session of the UN commission on these matters but also informed its participants of the quite wide-ranging set of measures which Russia would be adopting in this field in the very near future. He was speaking, in particular, of the elaboration of a Russian entry and exit law and Russia's forthcoming affiliation with agreements on refugees and the opening in Moscow of offices of such organizations as the Agency of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Migration Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Russian leadership is interested in "putting on a permanent basis expert evaluation of Russian bills." Specifically, in conjunction with the UN Center for Human Rights and the UN Volunteer Fund, it is necessary "to accelerate the process of an improvement in Russian legislation." Russia supports the adoption at the present session of the UN Commission on Human Rights of a declaration on questions of national minorities. As A. Kozyrev declared, it is altogether time to shift the emphases from a recognition of standards in the sphere of human rights to the creation of a mechanism for their implementation. In addition, the Russian representative advocated "the imposition of economic and other sanctions" in the event of a flagrant violation of human rights.

Republics' Weapons 'Hazard' Termed 'Nonsense'

PM2402164892 Moscow NEW TIMES in English Jan 92 p 7

[Unattributed feature: "Exclusive for New Times: Supreme Commander of CIS Armed Forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov:"]

[Text] Much is being said nowadays that some CIS members supposedly plan to sell nuclear weapons or are already doing that. Again and again the mass media report that Transcaucasia supposedly has several thousand units of tactical nuclear weapons, which represents a hazard, as these weapons may be seized, proliferated or vended. That is all stuff and nonsense. I do not seek to hurt anyone's feelings, but I must say that for the mass media to say such things is dangerous, if not criminal. The CIS has reaffirmed its commitment to all the international agreements that the Soviet Union signed in its time, including the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. All talk that while in Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Vice President Rutskoy discussed nuclear weapons sales is sheer invention.

As for selling conventional weapons, I think the sovereign states should reach an accord in that respect. One may conjecture why the sovereign states so greatly desire to take possession of these weapons, as in the USSR in time they were mostly concentrated on the periphery. It could well be that some sovereign states would like to sell these weapons, thereby to profit, though to say that is not very appropriate. Could it be that they want thus to cope with their social problems. Whatever the case, it seems to me that they should not go about this separately.

Though I have no intention of teaching anyone, the more so the leaders of the sovereign states what they ought to do, what they should focus on nowadays are economic issues. Indeed, if the divving up of the armed forces would serve to cope with economic issues and raise popular standards of welfare, I would be amenable not only to dividing up the armed forces, but even having myself carved into eleven different pieces.

Nazarbayev Comments on Nuclear Intentions

PM2402162192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Untitled report by ITAR-TASS correspondent V. Smelov as part of a feature under the general heading "Commonwealth States Broaden Contacts with Outside World"]

[Text] Vienna, 20 Feb—Each CIS member state should be politically independent and free. However, it is necessary that the CIS remains a single economic area similar to West Europe, the European Community. Kazakh President N. Nazarbayev, who is on a working visit to Austria, stated this in an interview published in the Vienna newspaper KURIER.

People are asserting that the Soviet Union has collapsed, but this is not the case. The Russian Empire, about which the Russian leaders themselves talk, has fallen apart but this should not be made into a tragedy. The republics should now work together. Suffice it to say that 50 percent of all goods which are vitally important to Kazakhstan were imported from other republics, and these ties are not so easily broken, the president emphasized.

Answering a question on the fate of nuclear weapons situated on Kazakhstan's territory, N. Nazarbayev indicated that his country does not wish to be a nuclear power. However, time is needed to eliminate nuclear weapons. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, he reminded us, signed an agreement on creating a unified command of strategic armed forces. The question of the use of nuclear weapons is being decided among these republics, none of which can undertake anything autonomously in this area. N. Nazarbayev emphasized that Kazakhstan is participating in all negotiations on the reduction of nuclear arsenals.

However, Kazakhstan's neighbor China, the president noted, is a nuclear power, and so are Pakistan and India. Therefore, Kazakhstan's viewpoint is as follows: It will take at least 15 years to destroy the missiles. It would be desirable if China, Pakistan, and India followed Kazakhstan's example, he added.

Nuclear Experts Leave for Libya, Iran

AU2502092992 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Feb 92 pp 146-150

[Excerpts] There are 100,000 Russian nuclear experts struggling for their existence: The average monthly salary in the armament complexes, which have been kept secret until now, is hardly sufficient to buy three kgs of meat. Western support for scientific centers helps only a few. The first nuclear experts have already left for Libya and Iran. [passage omitted]

Before the "cold war" was lost, the 5,000 employees of the arms factory code named "R 64 76" were permitted to answer questions about their place of work only by saying that they worked in a "pochtoviy yashchik," a mailbox. Every Soviet citizen understood and was silent.

Now the company's three managers may identify themselves as the managers of "Nikimt," the "Research and Construction Institute for Assembly Technology" in Moscow's Kirovskiy district. [passage omitted]

"Two or three of my welding experts have received a lucrative offer from the Third World, the director of Nikimt says without being asked. The cage that imprisoned all those who worked for R 64 76 is suddenly wide open: "I will not declare my employees to be people who are in possession of state secrets, thus forcing them to stay. Everybody has the right not to care a pin for their country and to leave." [passage omitted]

Formal permission to leave the country from the head of the new Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry is still missing—President Boris Yeltsin has not yet appointed a new minister. Deputy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov can "understand" the would-be emigrants, but he does not believe "that anybody will really leave." Nuclear weapons, Mikhaylov says, "were and are built by patriots. They are people with a strong sense of responsibility." [passage omitted]

The Americans and Germans have long recognized the potential danger posed by desperate nuclear experts who no longer have any work. Together with the Russian Government they want to establish a technology center. Washington has promised $25 million, the EC $50 million. But how many experts can be prevented for how long from selling their knowledge to Third World countries that are greedy for armament?

The fate of 10 top secret nuclear cities, whose codes were derived from the local postal codes, now torments the rulers in the Kremlin like a nightmare. First of all, there is the Chelyabinsk-65 and Chelyabinsk-70 nuclear arms complex in the southern Urals, the nuclear capital of the deceased Soviet Union. The places are not marked on any map even though more than 40,000 people live in each of them. [passage omitted]

According to the calculations of Deputy Nuclear Energy Minister Mikhaylov, a million people currently live in the country's 10 nuclear cities, including 100,000 experts. "They are useful for all nations," Mikhaylov says. "I wonder why Germany is still sleeping."

"The West is not yet aware of how much Soviet society was militarized," Professor Aleksey Yablokov, Boris Yeltsin's personal adviser in the Kremlin. According to his investigations, until the beginning of this year 75 percent of all companies in St. Petersburg and half of all enterprises in Moscow worked mainly for the Armed Forces.

The financial aid from the United States and the EC for a research center will certainly not be sufficient for a turnabout. "We need orders, orders, orders," nuclear energy politician Mikhaylov says and warns: "If a ship moves without someone at the helm, it will run aground."

The first people have already left the Russian ship. Before the end of last year nuclear physicist Igor Cherniyev, 46, from the Dubna nuclear research center near Moscow left for Libya. He had studied at Moscow's Physical-Technological Institute, a cadre forge for nuclear experts and missile builders. He got the contract with al-Qadhdhafi's regime via a Libyan friend, whom he had met by accident many years ago near an aircraft school in Kremenchug in the Ukraine.

He has meanwhile telephoned his sister Anna Georgina and his parents in Moscow three times. He says that, together with another three Russians who in the past used to build pipelines, he is working on a "secret nuclear project." Since Cherniyev was never able to gather practical experience in building the bomb, he will probably not be able to satisfy al-Qadhdhafi's desire for a nuclear bomb in the near future.

The Iranians, who are forging ahead with their nuclear arms plans by importing material from China, are acting more professionally. They use their former consulate in Baku, which is now their embassy in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a clearing point for hiring frustrated Russian experts. Russians who are looking for contacts but who have a note in their passport that prohibits them from leaving the country because they are holders of state secrets, have no problem in going to this town, which is close to the border.

After a trip to Baku a man who introduced himself as an interested person visited the DER SPIEGEL office in Moscow last week on his own initiative. He claimed that an employee of the Iranian Embassy had offered him an annual salary of $60,000 plus $360,000 compensation for giving up his citizenship. At least one of his colleagues has already been taken across the border to Iran by smugglers in return for 1,000 rubles.

The nuclear physicist, who worked on the intercontinental missiles that were stationed in northern Europe, was supposed to work on neutron spectrography in Iran—indispensable for the production of nuclear weapons. "I would like to build such a bomb," he says. "I would like to know whether I can do what the Germans were unable to do in World War II." [passage omitted]

China 'In Effect' Rejects Yeltsin Proposals

LD2102123192 Moscow TASS in English 1201 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov and Sergey Sorokin]

[Text] Beijing February 21 TASS—China has in effect rejected Russia's recent proposal on nuclear disarmament. Asked to comment on Russia's initiative that five nuclear powers remove strategic missiles from combat duty and store warheads and boosters separately, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that China unflaggingly supports the banning and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. At the same time, he said, "two nuclear powers, which have the largest and the most advanced nuclear arsenals" bear a special responsibility and have special duties.

In effect, the remark reflects China's old position on nuclear disarmament. Previously Chinese diplomats said that China will begin reducing its nuclear weapons only after the United States and Russia (as the successor of the USSR in nuclear weapons) bring their arsenals down to China's level.

China, the Foreign Ministry spokesman reminded, has "unilaterally" pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

"We have also vowed not to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states and nuclear-free regions," he said.

China has had nuclear weapons since 1964, when Chinese specialists exploded the first nuclear device. The exact number of Chinese nuclear weapons remains a closely-guarded secret.

Commentary on Strategic Goal of Nonnuclear World

LD2502034492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Text] The territory of what used to be the USSR will not become the source of nuclear destabilization in the world. This is the underlying idea of President Boris Yeltsin's interview for the daily IZVESTIYA in which he spelled out the principles of Russia's nuclear policy. The following commentary was contributed by Yuriy Solton:

A great evil is how Boris Yeltsin described the birth of the first nuclear bomb. Of course, it played a certain stabilizing role, but in the following decades mankind had to spend plenty of energy and means to protect itself from the weapons of mass destruction it had created. Boris Yeltsin would have been happy to see such weapons completely liquidated during his lifetime, but, as he himself acknowledged, it still remains a dream nowadays. Nevertheless, Russia's strategic goal is a non-nuclear world. Does that mean that the Russian leadership is going to destroy completely all nuclear arsenals of the former Soviet Union? Regrettably, the end of the East-West confrontation and the abandoning of the doctrines dividing the world into two systems has failed, so far, to provide universal security. A nuclear conflict either by ill will or accident is not excluded, given the unwillingness of nuclear powers to fully give up this kind of weapons. About two dozen of other countries are still cherishing nuclear ambitions. Under such circumstances, Russia is for nuclear disarmament but only on a parity basis. Reality does not require to have such a huge amount of nuclear arsenals accumulated by now. Aware of the fact, the American and Russian presidents launched reciprocal initiatives on nuclear disarmament last month. Despite the existing differences about when, how, and how many nuclear warheads are to be destroyed, their positions become much closer following the United States Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow. A greater coordination of efforts is expected during the forthcoming talks in March. Meanwhile, the process of denuclearization has actually got underway. In his interview, Boris Yeltsin again stressed that Russia would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. It is now retargetting its nuclear missiles formerly aimed at the cities and important facilities in the countries that used to be regarded as potential enemies. Under a mutual agreement with the United States, they will have a zero flight mission. Boris Yeltsin dismissed speculations carried by some of the media that Russia could pull the nuclear lever in its relations with other former Soviet Republics. He described such statements as blasphemous and insulting, saying that it was simply impossible to use nuclear weapons without the knowledge of any single nuclear republic. Strategic nuclear forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States are an independent formation, loyal to the supreme commander, who in turn obeys the council of the heads of independent states. Having the rank of colonel himself, Boris Yeltsin is not a commander in chief, since Russia has no independent army of its own. It is true that the new nuclear policy is not unanimously supported in Russia and in other member countries of the Commonwealth. It will apparently take much time before it is generally understood that a policy of goodwill suits the Commonwealth's interests much better than the policy from the position of strength.

Moscow TV Reports Collision In 'Neutral Waters'

LD2402235892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report by announcer L. Obukhova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] There is still discussion about the collision between one of our submarines and a U.S. submarine on 11 February, and about the exact location of the incident, whether it took place in our territorial waters or in neutral waters. The argument has not subsided. On 20 February, the official report by the Northern Fleet Command in Murmansk was quoted as saying that the U.S. submarine violated our borders. The coordinates were given as 69 degrees and 38.7 minutes north, and 33 degrees and 46.9 minutes east. We have now conducted an investigation.

On 11 February, at 2137, Colonel (Igor Uvarov), commander of an An-12 rescue aircraft, received an order from an Air Force duty officer of the Northern Fleet Headquarters to take off to rescue a submarine which had given a distress signal in the Barents Sea, in neutral waters. Coordinates were given. At the time, it was seen as a question of saving people's lives. So, it is firsthand and trustworthy information. [video shows Navy official and a marine chart indicating site of collision; correspondent with air crew on board an aircraft; northern landscapes]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified pilot] I was ordered to take off.

[Obukhova] By whom?

[Pilot] The order was given by a duty officer of the Northern Fleet Air Force. I was informed that a submarine was in trouble. I did not even know what department it belonged to; that is, whether it was ours or not. The crew was urgently alerted, we prepared and loaded a motor boat onto the aircraft. Well, of course we took the coordinates.

[Obukhova] What were the coordinates? Could you repeat again, please.

[Pilot] Forty kilometers north of (Kredin). As a matter of fact, I have them written down and I can read them to you. [video shows pilot looking in his notebook] This is for 11 February—just a second. Here they are: 69 degrees 42 minutes north, and 34 degrees east.

[Obukhova] So, 69 degrees 42 minutes north, and 34 degrees 00 minutes east. [end recording]

[Obukhova] So, here is an obvious fact: The coordinates of the submarine in trouble given to the rescuers of the Northern Fleet Air Force by a duty officer at headquarters show that the collision with the U.S. submarine occurred in neutral waters.

[Announcer Mitkova] Here is information from INTERFAX diplomatic panorama as an addition to the above. Certain Russian military circles were disappointed by the refusal of President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Kozyrev to send a protest note to the United States about the collision between CIS and U.S. submarines in the Barents Sea on 11 February. The investigation carried out by the Northern Fleet Command contained a recommendation to the Russian foreign political department to draw the United States' attention in diplomatic form to the impermissibility of violating Russian territorial waters.

As we now know, the case was discussed by Boris Yeltsin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during their meeting in Moscow on 18 February. A protest note, however, did not follow. In the opinion of one military expert, we hardly could have feared a deterioration in relations with the United States, because such notes are usual international practice in such a situation. Well, I think here one can put a question mark.

Naval 'Expert' Regrets No Protest Sent

OW2402142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and other diplomatic correspondents; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An expert of the Navy Headquarters in Moscow says some representatives of the Russian military have been disappointed with Boris Yeltsin's and Andrey Kozyrev's refusal to send a note of protest to the U.S.A. following the collision of a Soviet and an American atomic submarines in the Barents Sea February 11. The Command of the Northern Fleet has recommended the Russian Foreign Ministry make clear to the U.S. in a diplomatic way that Russian territorial waters cannot be violated.

As is known, the incident was discussed by Yeltsin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a meeting in Moscow February 18. The two sides agreed to make public the incident, but the note of protest was not sent to the U.S.A.

The military expert believes Russia should not fear the worsening of relations with the U.S.A., because the issuing of "such notes is the common international practice".

Potential Further Damage Cited

OW2402203892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief of staff of the CIS Navy has said that the US and CIS submarines, which collided in the Barents Sea on February 11, could have sunk in less than a minute. That would be not enough to shut down the nuclear reactors, as it was done on the Soviet missile-carrying submarine "Komsomolets" which sank in the

Barents Sea three years ago. Should the submarines carrying strategic and tactical nuclear arms sink in the area, where the depth is 230 meters, the ecological effects on Russia's Arctic and the Scandinavian countries would be comparable to the damage caused by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

Shevardnadze Sees 'Danger' of Putsch 'Real'

LD2202170392 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Novak]

[Text] Vienna February 22 TASS—"I believe Russia is on the right track," President of the Foreign Political Association Eduard Shevardnadze said in an interview with the NEUE KRONER-ZEITUNG newspaper. He is now on a private visit in Austria.

Despite a tense situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former Soviet foreign minister continues to be optimistic, the newspaper continues. In his opinion, the independence gained by the CIS republics is an irreversible process, which will be intensified in the future. Touching upon the situation in the Commonwealth, Shevardnadze pointed out that the present state of society posed a potential threat not only for the CIS member states, but also for Europe in general.

Shevardnadze found it necessary to warn that the danger of another putsch was quite real. A low level of social protection of servicemen and the absence of proper dwellings for them can hardly be regarded as stabilising factors, he pointed out.

Giving his assessment of the personality of the incumbent president of Russia and his performance in the current situation, Shevardnadze said that "Yeltsin is a guarantor of democracy and the reform which is being implemented today." In his opinion, Yeltsin deserves confidence.

Yakovlev Connected With Foreign Party Funding

PM1902155592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Andrey Ostalskiy: "Aleksandr Yakovlev: Perhaps The Same People Are Taking Revenge on Me"]

[Text] The international communist movement was "an absolutely artificial, unviable formation salvaged to a considerable extent by CPSU money"—that is why it collapsed so easily, Aleksandr Yakovlev believes.

And he can undoubtedly be considered an expert on this question—he was, albeit not for very long, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in charge of the international department—the man who, among his other affairs, engaged in the secret financing of foreign communist parties. In 18 months, he said, Yakovlev managed to achieve a reduction in appropriations for these fine purposes from about $25 million a year to approximately $12 million and, if he had had his way, he would have stopped these illegal payments completely. But he did not manage to do that, he could not overcome the blank resistance from the well-tuned system which had been functioning for decades.

"The communist movement was necessary primarily to justify the system of power in our country and also to put forward the idea of 'world revolution' in which some people, however strange it may seem, still believed. These millions paid for the eulogies of the communist parties' leaders at the CPSU congresses," Aleksandr Yakovlev believes, and it seems to him strange and unfair that some people now blame him for the financial injections which artificially extended the life of the communist movement. "I almost never received the first secretaries of foreign communist parties. Ligachev increasingly did that. They used to complain about me, saying: What is this, a secretary for international affairs, but he does not want to receive communist leaders...For six years at all the congresses and plenums I was accused with Shevardnadze and Gorbachev of destroying the communist movement...And in some sense that is so. But only in part. What kind of a force is it, what kind of a "movement" is it which can be destroyed within a few years by two or three people?

"You remember the meetings 'in defense of the Army' a year ago? You remember the posters about me? In one I am in the sights of a gun with the inscription: 'We shan't miss this time!' And another poster with the words: 'Yakovlev is a CIA agent.' Both were executed in a far from amateurish manner. I have now learned for certain that both posters were produced in the KGB—with authorization from the 'top Cheka bosses.' And it was also KGB workers who carried them to demonstrations.

"The same accusations against me have just been heard on Manezh Square. They are attacks from the right and I do not intend either to argue with these people or to attempt somehow to justify myself. But when on instructions from the democratic authorities they begin to frighten me with interrogations. It has come to the point where people telephone me at home and say: 'Well, now you've done it, will they drag you to court now too?' I did not expect such gratitude from the democratic authorities."

[Ostalskiy] How secret was the distribution of funds? Did you know of the system which existed before you took charge of the international department?

[Yakovlev] I first learned of these payments when I was ambassador to Canada. And then only because the KGB resident shared this secret with me. The Canadian Communist Party was tiny and had no influence. That is obviously why the amount of money supplied by the CPSU was also small.

[Ostalskiy] According to you information, how far were the communist parties controlled by the KGB?

[Yakovlev] In my opinion there was virtually no control. The KGB was simply used in this respect for the secret transfer of money allocated by the CPSU Central Committee. The KGB had no need of control over the communist parties. On the contrary, a link with these people was dangerous to the KGB.

[Ostalskiy] And the Central Committee international department? Were there people from the KGB there?

[Yakovlev] No, as far as I know. In general for a long time there was a provision banning the recruitment to work in the Central Committee of people from the KGB. Only later, when the international information department was formed, was this provision for some reason repealed for it. But in general I was convinced from my own experience that the KGB was a state within a state, an enormous force capable of destroying anyone it wanted. It was only a question of time. In the thirties this was done in hours. In our time they did not have enough time to get to me. They were only just short of time. After the failure of the putsch I was shown a paper on which I figure as the head of some fabricated conspiratorial organization of democrats and I have the stupid nickname "Papa". God knows why it was "Papa". And that was a report from some allegedly very serious agent! That is what they made up. And now I think: Who needs this now, putting my name to the story of the "CPSU money?" And I cannot get rid of the feeling that these are the same forces, the same people, who are now taking revenge on me for their defeat.

Local Officials Comment on Talks With Baker

MK2102142992 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 8, 19-25 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Levin under "Visits" rubric: "Baker in Nuclear Center of Russia"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker spent just 26 hours in the Urals. But he did on the other hand visit the heart of the nuclear weapons complex—the closed city of Chelyabinsk-70.

"Your coming here indicates that times are changing rapidly," V. Mikhaylov, Russian deputy minister of nuclear power generation, said, opening the U.S. secretary's meeting with scientists from the Technical Physics Research Institute.

The research institute was set up in 1955 to carry out scientific studies and design work to develop nuclear weapons. Corresponding Member Doctor of Physics and Mathematical Sciences Ye. Avrorin, the institute's scientific head, believes that the research institute's strength lies in its personnel's high qualifications. The time has come to switch its scientific potential to peaceful work. Specialists here may work in nuclear medicine, in fiber-optic communications, and the development of various kinds of explosive technologies. But the institute's position is quite difficult owing to the lack of the requisite funding. Therefore, Avrorin said, we are interested in cooperating with foreign scientists. Ye. Avrorin proposed a few concrete ideas for joint cooperation with the Americans in destroying the nuclear arsenal. James Baker supported these proposals and advocated creating an international center to develop peaceful scientific projects in Chelyabinsk-70. That would block the brain drain.

"There are still criminal regimes on earth," the U.S. secretary of state said, "that are dying to get hold of nuclear weapons. This must not be allowed."

While in Yekaterinburg, the eminent visitor visited the scene of the execution of Nicholas II and the fine art museum. Moreover he spoke to E. Rossel, head of the Sverdlovsk Oblast administration.

"Our conversation," Eduard Rossel said, "touched on various subjects ranging from problems of conversion to the price of sausage. But I want to single out what I consider a few of the important elements. The main thing is that it proved possible to reach agreement on opening a U.S. consulate in Yekaterinburg. It could open this October.

"For our part, we made a number of concrete suggestions regarding the creation of joint enterprises involved in food processing and storage, the manufacture of furniture and color television sets, and the construction of an international airport at Koltsovo. All the suggestions were handed to James Baker, who will submit them to the U.S. Congress.

Report Says U.S. Behind in Trade With CIS

LD2402134992 Moscow TASS in English 0846 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Romantsov]

[Text] New York February 24 TASS—"The U.S. foreign economic policy places American companies in CIS countries in an unequal position with firms of other advanced nations," says a report ordered by the Geoeconomic Institute and the U.S. Committee for American-Soviet Relations. It states that the U.S. Government should grant more credits and broader insurance guarantees, should adopt technical service programmes, lower restrictions on the export of high-technology products, and grant the Most Favoured Nation treatment to the former Soviet Union.

The report notes that the U.S. lags far behind other G-7 states in trade with CIS nations. Thus, if the share of the Commonwealth in German export and import trade amounts to 2.5 percent, the figure for the United States hardly reaches 0.5 percent.

President of the Geoeconomic Institute Michael Clodon says the former Soviet Union has a market of 208 million people, eager to get U.S. technologies, managerial experience and goods, but U.S. trade with it still equals to approximately the volume of American trade with Haiti.

The report acknowledges that the development of U.S.-CIS economic relations is objectively obstructed by such factors as the breakup of a single state, red-tape, lack of a proper infrastructure in CIS countries and unconvertibility of the ruble.

Author of the report Cathryn Wittneben says the United States is trying to use trade with the Soviet Union as a "cold war truncheon" in order to make it alter its political behaviour, which does not suit the United States. "It is high time to regard trade as a means to support the economic and political reforms in the Commonwealth of Independent States and as an instrument to ensure America's economic growth," she believes.

CIS Delegation Proposed for Mujahidin Talks

PM1802151192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladislav Lebantsov and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA special correspondent Igor Mikhaylov report under the "Talks" rubric: "Three More POW's Released"]

[Text] Islamabad—Talks have been in held in the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, between a joint Russian-Uzbek delegation headed by I.I. Andronov, adviser to the Russian vice president, and an Afghan mujahidin delegation headed by B. Rabbani. The release of three soldiers of the former Soviet Army, who are citizens of Uzbekistan, was announced on the first day of the talks.

At the talks representatives of the Afghan delegation noted that the handover of POW's had been carried out in strict accordance with the accord previously reached with Russian Vice President A.V. Rutskoy. During the dialogue the mujahidin leaders claimed that the decisions to stop arms supplies to Kabul are not being carried out by the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS].

In an interview given to your ITAR-TASS and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondents, B. Rabbani stated, in particular, that, according to mujahidin information, supplies of weapons to the Najibollah government are continuing.

According to him, a convoy carrying petroleum products had been seized during a combat operation in Afghanistan and an Afghan Army officer taken prisoner. The latter reported to Rabbani's field commanders that supplies of weapons from the CIS have not stopped and are being actively carried out.

Talking about the possibility of achieving peace on Afghan soil, B. Rabbani stated: "We regard the bloodshed among Afghans as a direct result of the former Soviet Union's armed aggression against our homeland. We are convinced that there will be no peace in the country so long as power backed by Soviet tanks remains in Afghanistan. It is essential that power be transferred to an Islamic transitional government if the prevailing difficult situation is to be unblocked."

Answering a question about how soon citizens of not just the Central Asian republics, but Russians too will be released, Rabbani said that he is interested in releasing all prisoners—Russians, Ukrainians, Jews... "We see no obstacles to releasing citizens of other nationalities too," he noted.

Rabbani stressed that the mujahidin leaders are in favor of talks with a single CIS delegation. That, in his words, is essential for discussion of questions concerning responsibility for the damage caused to Afghanistan. "We attach great significance to ties with all the CIS countries, but the most important thing for us is to develop relations with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan."

We asked V.Ye. Pavlovich—member of the joint delegation and representative of the CIS Armed Forces General Staff—to comment on the Afghan mujahidin claims about continuing supplies to Kabul. "I can state in all responsibility that supplies of arms to the Afghan government were stopped on 15 December 1991," he said. "The decision to halt supplies was made in line with the accords between the United States and the former USSR of 13 September last year and the special decision of the former Soviet Government. Our side strictly observes the commitments it has assumed, and we regard the mujahidin leaders' claims as unsubstantiated."

The three Uzbek citizens whom the mujahidin have offered the opportunity to return home were introduced to journalists at a news conference held at the Pakistan Foreign Ministry. Ustam Abdukarimov, posted missing, and Nosirdzhan Rustamov and Kaim Ermatov, posted killed in action, made short statements to representatives of the mass media. N. Rustamov, who had spent six years in captivity, expressed his firm resolve to return home. The two others informed the assembly that they wish to stay in Afghanistan and serve the cause of Islam.

On Friday [14 February] N. Rustamov, the relatives of the former POW's, and the joint delegation of the republics left for the Uzbekistan capital aboard a special flight.

Turkish Envoy Reassures Armenia on Armed Forces

TA1902202492 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1615 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Moscow (AA)—Volkan Vural, Turkey's ambassador to Moscow, received today Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow, Feliks Mamikonan, and told him that "Turkey does not intend to use its Armed Forces as a tool of pressure in international relations."

Our correspondent has learned that Vural received Mamikonan following certain Russian press reports and the rumors that the Armenian Government was concerned about the military activities going on in eastern Anatolia within the framework of the Winter 92 exercises—exercises previously planned by the Turkish Armed Forces.

It has been learned that Mamikonan expressed his government's concern about the Turkish Army exercises, and that Vural pointed out that the exercises were planned a long time ago. Ambassador Vural stressed that this exercise is a routine one repeated every year, and that because the duty area of the 3d Army is very large, the dimensions of the exercise are also very large. He pointed out that the planning of such an exercise takes such a long time that it cannot be connected to the developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Armenian representative reportedly agreed with this argument. [passage omitted]

Finland Establishes Diplomatic Ties With CIS

LD2202100392 Moscow TASS in English 1526 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] President of Finland, Mauno Koivisto, decided today to establish diplomatic relations with six Commonwealth countries, according to the Finnish Telegraph Bureau.

Diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level will be established with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Thus, Finland recognized all the independent states which were formed on the territory of the former Soviet Union, except Georgia, and decided to establish diplomatic relations with them.

Brazilian Company To Market MiG-29's

LD2402102892 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Chistov]

[Text] Brasilia February 24 TASS—The Brazilian Treze Industria Aeronautica Company has signed an agreement with the Mikoyan aircraft design bureau, to become the bureau's only representative in South America.

Contracts for the delivery of MiG-29 military aircraft will be registered at the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow or in Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JORNAL DO BRAZIL reports referring to company President Francisco Dambrus.

He said representatives of the two countries had already begun negotiations with his company for the purchase of the fighter-planes.

The Treze Industria Aeronautica has also signed an agreement with the Aviatika amalgamation on the production of MAI-89 light planes in Brazil. The planes are to be used in agriculture, for the training of air pilots, and for other purposes.

These planes, Dambrus points out, are much lighter in weight and cheaper than Brazilian analogues. At the first stage he expects to sell 25-30 such planes on the South American market every month. The second stage of the implementation of the agreement with the Aviatika will cover the production of foreign four-to-six-seat planes for businessmen.

Commonwealth

Representatives Hold Border Talks in Moscow

LD2402144192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (TASS)—Plenipotentiary representatives of CIS heads of state held a working meeting today with the border troops command. The meeting was convened at the Committee for Protection of the State Border. Draft documents on protecting the external borders and the maritime economic zone of the Commonwealth states and on the status of border troops, as well as regulations covering their joint command, were the subjects discussed. The proposals and criticisms which were voiced will be taken into consideration during the preparation of documents which are to be studied by the Council of Commonwealth Heads of State at their forthcoming meeting in Kiev.

Interstate Council Discusses Foreign Debt

LD2402190992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] A session of the CIS Interstate Council is taking place today in Moscow on the foreign debt issue. An agreement on collective responsibility for foreign debts, although signed by all the republics, is not being fulfilled at all. For example, Ukraine's debt in this agreement amounts to 17 percent, but Vneshekonombank [Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs] is receiving nothing from there.

There should also be a discussion of the problem of the return of credits granted by us to a number of developing countries. Petr Aven, minister of external economic ties, believes that hopes for repayment vary, depending on the debtor country. Thus, Nicaragua is capable of reapaying only 10 percent of its debts to the CIS countries, while Algeria is capable of repaying almost 95 percent.

Shevardnadze on 'Real Danger of Another Coup'

AU2402090692 Vienna NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG in German 22 Feb 92 pp 2-3

[Report by Claus Pandi on interview with former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Vienna; date not given: "Russia Is on the Right Path"]

[Excerpt] Commenting on the tense situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], Shevardnadze says "that this state of affairs is a possible hotbed of danger for a conflict that may not only have repercussions on the CIS but on all of Europe."

Unlike Ukrainian President Kravchuk, Shevardnadze does not believe that a USSR successor state will be restored. "The independence of the new states is an irrevocable process that is becoming stronger and stronger." On the other hand, Shevardnadze assesses the future of the CIS less positively.

Even though the former Soviet foreign minister wants to spread hope, he warns: "There is the real danger of another coup. What is currently going on in the Army—the lack of housing, the low degree of social security for the soldiers—are not stabilizing factors," says Shevardnadze in the NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG interview. He adds: "I do not think that anything can be done on the initiative of the military. But in the event there are certain radical developments, it could be that part of the Army joins such movements."

Shevardnadze judges Boris Yeltsin as a guarantor of democracy and reforms: "He deserves our confidence." Asked about the Russian president's market economy plans, Shevardnadze, who is highly oriented toward the West, says: "It is a good thing for Yeltsin to have admitted recently that he made certain mistakes because it is really true, but this economic program was put up under considerable pressure of time. The previous government waited too long, and now it all must go quickly."

Military

Procurator Addresses Problem of Army Desertion

LD2202211892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By KRIM-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Stepanchenko]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb (TASS)—The main problem today for the Army bodies of law and order is mass desertion, Major General Vasiliy Koliverda, military procurator of the Moscow Military District, stated in an interview to the KRIM-PRESS correspondent. In his opinion, the law on amnesty for those who evaded military service, which was signed in November 1991, has not had any particular effect on this process: Currently less than half of the "fugitives" have returned to barracks. In fleeing, the deserters frequently seize anything that is "lying about," including weapons.

The very nature of stealing weapons has also changed, the military procurator noted. A couple of years ago the theft of a submachine gun was considered an extreme happening, but now things are quite different. "Barrel hunters" come in whole teams. Special interest is shown in submachine guns and machine guns. In January 1992 the procurator of the Moscow Military District was engaged in a something which had never happened before—two cannons were stolen.

If one speaks as a whole, Vasiliy Koliverda reported, then compared with 1990 the number of crimes committed in the district's military units increased by 30 percent in 1991.

In the opinion of the military procurator, in order to reduce the crime rate in military units, it is first and foremost necessary to make decisions on a state level which would define the legal basis for enforcing order in the Army. Improvements are also required in the working conditions of staff in the military procuracy. Many problems have accumulated here: poor provision with equipment, fluidity of staff, low wages, lack of financial means to pay for expert examinations, inspections, and similar services from outside organizations. It will take more than just one year to change the situation for the better, General Koliverda noted.

Transcaucasus Deserters Viewed

LD2302193892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1556 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section: "Eight Hundred People Deserted Military Service"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—According to the Transcaucasian Frontier District commander's assistant, 800 border guards (each 50th serviceman) have deserted from their units during the last six months.

Colonel Yuriy Medvedev, assistant to the Transcaucasian Border District commander, revealed this information at a meeting with soldiers' parents, held in Rostov-on-Don on February 22. The meeting was held by the Transcaucasian Border District Command in order to try to find out what makes soldiers to desert and using their parents' help to return them to their units.

According to Medvedev, those who will return to their units voluntarily, will not be punished. The deserters' parents beleive that the main reason for deserting from service is their son's reluctance to interfere with the inter-ethnic conflicts in the Transcaucasus. Interference into these conflicts, they say, has nothing to do with protecting Russia's interests.

Having mentioned that border guards had not meddled in the conflicts, Medvedev said: Russia has interests on the other side of the Caucasian range. I think it is too early to withdraw from there. Medvedev also said [as received] PF at the meeting with Ataman (chief) of Cossack Don area troops unit that he called on the leadership of the Cossacks' union to assist in returning the deserters to their units and said that 76 deserters were conscripted in the Rostov region. It is not too often that conscripts from other regions become deserters. Medvedev also said that 350 of the deserters were conscripted in the North Caucasian military districts.

According to Medvedev 6 servicemen died in the Transcaucasian Border District in 1991, 3 soldiers committed suicides, 2 were killed in road accidents and 1 was killed in combat. Medvedev draw comparison with the Baiyal Military District, where 7 servicemen died during 1991.

At present 45 people are on service in the Transcaucasian Border District. The district's command is in Tbilisi, the units under the district's command are deployed in Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Chernavin in Azerbaijan To Discuss Caspian Fleet

PM2102135592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Admiral Chernavin, commander of the CIS Navy, is in Baku. The topic of discussion at the talks is still the same one—how to disperse the ships—but on this occasion it is ships in the Caspian rather than the Black Sea.

The admiral has accepted Azerbaijan's intention to create a naval structure within its armed forces on the basis of the Caspian flotilla.

However, according to Chernavin's words, there are many underwater reefs which will have to be circumnavigated in an effort to find a solution which will not destroy what has been built over many years.

Agreement has been reached to establish special commissions to represent the interests of the CIS Navy and Azerbaijan. Their brief includes drafting proposals on the status of the Caspian Fleet.

Possible Consequence of Uzin Personnel Actions

PM2402141192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Colonel A. Polyakov under the rubric: "Reporting Details": "Will We Really Divide the Strategic Forces, Too?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On 18 February, some of the personnel of two long-range aviation regiments stationed in the small town of Uzin took the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. It must be noted that this act was committed in violation of the Agreement on the Military Oath in the Strategic Forces signed by eight presidents, including Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk, in Moscow 16 January. Major General of Aviation M. Bashkirov, commander of the aviation division, who also took the Ukrainian oath, considers the regiments "to have left the structure of the CIS Strategic Forces" and is obeying the orders of the Ukrainian minister of defense.

A precedent was thus set, which may have unforeseeable consequences. Political games with nuclear weapons, irresponsible statements and arbitrariness by the military personnel in control of these weapons, current attempts to divide the Strategic Forces too—all this is evoking alarm today, not just as regards the fate of the Armed Forces and the CIS, but also peace in the world community.

To return to Uzin, however. What are these aviation regiments? One of them—the heavy bomber regiment—has in service Tu-95MS aircraft with nuclear cruise missiles on board. The other has Il-78 tankers. The operational range of the former depends on assistance from and refueling by the latter. So they operate jointly, carrying out common strategic missions.

Commissions composed of high ranking staff are working in the regiments at present. On 18 February I visited the garrison and met with officers and generals. This is what Lieutenant General of Aviation B. Konstantinov, commander of the Air Army, told me:

"Bashkirov called me on 13 February and said that he would communicate an important piece of news a bit later, but then he did not get in touch again. I found out for myself what had happened. I would like to stress that no one from the division warned me in advance of any such thing. I immediately flew out to Uzin, but the division commander issued an order that my aircraft should not be allowed to land. We landed hundreds of kilometers away in another airfield. We had to drive through a checkpoint, where they tried to stop us. By morning we managed to reach Uzin. Bashkirov refused to obey my orders and even closed the headquarters to prevent me from using the means of communication. I talked to him for around two hours. Why did Bashkirov, who until recently advocated the unity of the Strategic Forces, suddenly take such an unpredictable and extremely dangerous step for a military man? He explained this by saying that he wanted to display concern for people because the regiments might be restationed in Russia where the families have no apartments and no concern is shown for them, but the essence lay somewhere else.

"Approximately six months ago, O. Konrad, a Ukrainian Council of Ministers spokesman, visited me and proposed that a commercial enterprise be created on the basis of the Uzin airfield. The actions of the division's officers are permeated with this idea. They are saying: Let them take the Tu-95 regiment to Russia; we will convert the tankers into transport aircraft and rake in millions, but what about concern for the hundreds of families in the combat regiment? There is no such concern, and it is not by chance that only 25 percent of aircraft commanders and navigators in this regiment have taken the Ukrainian oath."

"I have spoken over the telephone with Colonel General K. Morozov," B. Konstantinov went on. "We hope that we will find an acceptable solution to the problem. It must be said that this "gift" is of no use to Ukraine. If a regiment with nuclear weapons comes out of our jurisdiction, then a third nuclear button will appear—the Ukrainian president will have one, and this will immediately create international problems."

At a very recent meeting in the Supreme Soviet between Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk and military chiefs, Major General of Aviation M. Bashkirov stated that he has more nuclear buttons than all the presidents. Thus he supposedly wanted to focus attention on resolving the problems of the Strategic Forces. Because politicians are apparently not in a hurry to adopt considered decisions. What happens when the military start solving their own problems through their own efforts can be seen clearly from the Uzin example. Colonel General of Aviation I. Kalugin, commander of the long range aviation, has now come to the garrison. The day before, he dismissed Bashkirov from his post. But the Ukrainian minister of defense issued instructions that this order be considered invalid. It emerges that the strategic regiments are still subordinate to General Bashkirov, and through him to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense.

It only remains to be added that there is more than one strategic regiment in Ukraine.

Baltics

States Experience 'Acute' Fuel, Energy Crisis

OW2302193092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The three Baltic States—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—are at present experiencing an acute fuel and energy crisis. According to the terms of agreements signed between the Baltic States and Russia at the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992, the Russian producers should have supplied 70% of the fuel delivered in 1991. But these agreements have not been complied with. Experts believe that the following reasons have led to the freezing of supplies from Russia: failure to settle the problem of the form in which payments for supplies are to be made; the fact that the Russian producers lack quotas and licences for the export of fuel, and the high export charges for raw materials exported from Russia. These and other questions are at present being discussed in talks which are being held at various levels between representatives of the Baltic States and Russia.

THE RESULTS OF THE ENERGY EMBARGO. The Estonian leaders have decided to stop the unloading of foodstuffs bound for Russia. Estonia took this step after Russia had during the first two months of 1992 openly sabotaged the fulfilment of a bilateral trade agreement on mutual deliveries for the first quarter of 1992. According to the terms of this agreement Estonia was to have received in January 13,000 tons [as received] of petrol, 35,000 tons of diesel fuel and 80,000 tons of fuel oil in exchange for foodstuffs and electricity. But in that month only 12,000 tons of fuel oil and 3,000 tons of diesel fuel was actually supplied to the republic through official government channels. As a result many of the republic's enterprises are partially or completely at a standstill, while the local administrations were forced in mid January to stop the supply of hot water to apartment blocks with central heating. All in all industrial and agricultural electrical energy consumption fell by one third.

In Latvia it is the shortage of aviation fuel, diesel fuel and petrol—i.e all those petroleum products of which Russia is the main exporter—that is most acutely felt. But supplies of natural gas are at present also being held up.

A similar situation has arisen in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Economics Ministry predicts that as a result of the shortfall in supplies from Russia production in the first quarter of 1992 could drop by 1.5-2 bn. [billion] rubles (20%) and 40-45,000 workers could be laid off. At present there are in the region of 100 Lithuanian enterprises unable to work at full capacity due to the ending of fuel supplies from Russia.

THE REPUBLICS ARE LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL SUPPLIES FROM RUSSIA.

The fuel and energy crisis has compelled the leaders of the Baltic States to look for alternative sources of supply. "Our future depends entirely on the West," said the Deputy Mayor of Tallinn.

A number of western countries today are helping the Baltic States to get fuel. Twice a week a ferry carrying fuel supplies crosses to Tallinn from Finland. In mid January Estonia received 4 mn. [million] krone in free aid from the Swedish government for the purpose of purchasing fuel. In mid February Norway 1440 tons of petrol by way of free aid, and it is expected that she will supply a further 4000 tons by the end of the month. [sentence as received]

Latvia, on the other hand, is being helped by Germany and Denmark. The German companies, DEA and Thyssen have undertaken to supply Latvia with 6000 tons of AI-93 petrol at $227 per ton. Payment is being made through Latvian securities to the value of $2.5 mn. The Danish government, for its part, has allocated 20 mn. Danish Krone for Latvia to purchase petroleum products from Denmark.

Since the middle of January the Latvian leaders have been holding intensive talks at various levels for the purpose of purchasing oil and petroleum products from the Middle East. The Latvian Foreign Minister, Mr J Jurkans has had talks with Kuwaiti businessmen in Copenhagen, while the Latvian Premier, Mr I Godmanis, received a delegation from the Arab Group AB Company in Riga. Premier Godmanis also visited Egypt and the Yemen in mid February for the same purpose.

But rather than wait for the Russian leadership to fulfill the obligations it undertook under the terms of signed agreements for the centralized supply of energy resources, the Baltic leaders have concluded direct agreements with a number of the fuel-producing autonomous republics. In early February Estonia signed a bilateral economic agreement on barter trade to the value of $4.7 mn. with the Republic of Komi (part of the Russian Federation in the North of the former USSR). According to the terms of the agreement Komi should supply Estonia with 15,000 tons of fuel oil, 10,000 tons of petrol and 10,000 tons of diesel fuel during the first quarter of 1992. Estonia in its turn will supply Komi with tinned fish and butter. Direct agreements have also been signed between consumers in Latvia and oil refineries in Komi and Bashkiria (a republic that is part of the Russian Federation and situated near the Urals).

Latvia for its part is also trying to solve the fuel and energy crisis through direct contacts with commercial organizations in Western Siberia. Several days ago agreement was reached after talks between representatives of the Latvian government and the General Director of the Nizhnevartovskaya Oil Exchange on Latvia partially paying for its oil imports from Russia in commodities.

But the measures adopted by the Baltic leaders can in the short term only soften the impact of the energy embargo. Getting out of the fuel and energy crisis almost completely depends on the results of talks that are currently being held with Russia. But at the same time experts believe that a possible trade reorientation on the part of the Baltic States towards Scandinavia could in the long term affect the supply of foodstuffs and electrical energy to the western regions of Russia.

Economic & Social

Threat of Air Traffic Control Strike Viewed

PM2102151792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by O. Mezhenna and I. Sviridov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Mezhenna] The situation in our once-famed civil aviation is very reminiscent of what was happening in the coal industry less than a year ago. Everything is bad, everything is falling apart, and everyone is wanting to strike. On top of the phenomenal prices being paid by passengers who are still flying—because they have no choice but to part with vast sums of their hard-earned cash—and the customs officers, who are in no way crucial but are prepared to go to any lengths, now there are rumors of an imminent strike by flight personnel of the Moscow air detachment, and possibly others too.

But the number one news today is the air traffic controllers' strike scheduled for 21 February. Less than 23 hours remain before the strike is due to begin. As far as I know, a special government commission and representatives of the strike committee are trying to find a compromise to avoid the strike.

The strikers' demands remain the same as they were last May—establishment of a state commission on the utilization of airspace and air traffic control, introduction of a 36 hour working week and 48 day vacations for air traffic controllers, etc.

You may recall that last May it was possible to avoid a conflict situation through the adoption of resolutions following which matters should have started moving.

They did not. We are still where we were then. Therefore if the strikers and the administration fail to reach an agreement, there will be a strike. And that means that our transport workers and the director of the air transport department will have to accept responsibility for 5,000 aircraft which will not take off, for almost 1,000,000 passengers who will be left sitting on their suitcases in Moscow's airports alone, and losses running into $22,000 incurred in the course of the 24 hours in Moscow alone. Yet air traffic will grind to a halt throughout Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia. The government's men and the strikers' representatives have just over 23 hours to find a common language. Although for the moment the air traffic controllers remain in a determined mood.

[S.G. Yevsyukov, president of the air traffic controllers' trade union federation] We are already in a pre-strike situation. We have to coordinate our actions. Bringing air traffic to a halt is not like stopping a car.

'Sharp Drop' in Gross National Product Viewed

LD2302221192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Itogi" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] A terrible danger that has taken clear shape this week is the sharp drop in industrial production. According to some figures, it is almost at the prewar level. This is borne out by statistics collected by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Enterpreneurs made specially available to "Itogi".

In January this year national income within the states of the Commonwealth fell by 17 percent. The drop in industrial production came to more than 17 percent. Coal output went down by 10 percent and oil by 12 percent. Production of freight wagons and cars was down by 20 percent. Production of tractors—and this on the eve of spring sowing—fell by 40 percent.

The most unpleasant thing is that production of ready rolled metal went down by 27 percent, which means that the second half of February and the beginning of March will be simply disastrous for the machine-building sector.

World experience warns that industrial collapse begins when the drop in the gross national product reaches 20 percent. We are already at 17 percent.

Public Opinion on Economy, Communist Party

OW2502074192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0639 GMT 25 Feb 92

["Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **MARKET OR STRICT PLANNING?**

According to the results of a survey conducted by the National Public Opinion Studies Center (VCIOM) from February 8-18, 52% of Russians, 53% of Kazakhs, and 44% of Ukrainians prefer an economic system based on private ownership and market mechanisms.

31% of Ukrainians, 27% of Russians and every fourth Kazakh favor a centralized system of planning and distribution.

The rest were unable to answer.

1635 people were surveyed in Russia, 517 in Ukraine and 98 in Kazakhstan, according to the "DATA" agency.

WILL THE COMMUNIST PARTY RETURN?

61% of Russians, 59% of Ukrainians and Kazakhs are certain that the Communist Party will never again be a force to be reckoned with.

15% of the population in Russia, 13% in Ukraine and ask many in Kazakhstan still believe in the Party's future.

The rest abstained.

Media

TASS Carries PRAVDA Review for 24 Feb

LD2402063292 Moscow TASS in English 0544 GMT 24 Feb 92

["PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Today's PRAVDA carries an account of activities in the capital on February 23—the Fatherland Defenders' Day.

With reference to Russia's Interior Ministry, the newspaper reports that Sunday's [23 February] meetings in Moscow involved approximately 15,000 people. Seventeen Moscow militiamen were injured during clashes with demonstrators.

PRAVDA carries a big article analysing the causes of setbacks in the Soviet Union's and Russia's foreign policies.

"The new political thinking, seemingly, promised an immense material benefit to both the Soviet Union and the whole world," the newspaper points out.

"Why did we run into debts? Previously, the argument was that there are neither victors nor the vanquished in the Cold War because friendship triumphed at the end of it, whereas now the United States quite freely has declared its own triumph.

"Foreign policy had always seemed to serve as bailout measures for our leaders. By coming forward with initiatives and scoring points in the international arena, they expected quickly to boost their prestige and somehow rectify domestic affairs.

"Mikhail Gorbachev's downfall revealed the illusory nature of such an approach. A demerit of our foreign policy is primarily in its isolation from domestic problems and in forgetting that they are paramount. Failing to resolve them and enabling them to develop into conflicts and crises, we reduce to nought any successes scored in the international arena".

PRAVDA carries a dispatch from Lvov on the internal political situation in Ukraine.

"By pushing Ukraine to a new shore, the leaders of the national democrats are not, apparently, always aware of consequences and of means being used," the article states.

"It is no secret that both inside and outside Ukraine, there are forces that dream about uniting the country's people into a uniformly thinking and acting monolith. But will that monolith be strong if it is based on nationalism and disregard for other peoples?

"How do the national democrats' assurances of their support for the president's policy look like in this context if they immediately undercut this support by treacherous acts under the cover of reservations the type of 'one should not idealise Kravchuk'?"

Reporting the establishment of a Russian foreign policy foundation, PRAVDA writes:

"There is nothing blameworthy in the aspiration of a fledgling domestic producer to feel the backing of his country's foreign policy agencies. The more so as the West as a whole is, evidently, the least interested in fostering competitors to itself from among Russian industrialists.

"To develop raw material branches in this country and encourage speculative capital is one thing, which is quite to the West's liking. Quite another thing is to create a high-powered industrial and financial basis in this country, about which the West is not particularly enthusiastic. It remains to hope that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support domestic producers in their aspirations".

Press Review for 24 Feb

LD2402084992 Moscow TASS in English 0809 GMT 24 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Army Day, marked in Russia on Sunday, is the number one topic in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA today. The newspaper runs an interview with Military Historian Colonel Ivan Vyrodov, who speaks about reforms in the Army. Commonwealth member- states should "sign a package of agreements, setting the legal groundwork for military reforms and the make-up of the armed forces," he said.

Commenting on rallies, held in Moscow and other Russian cities on Army Day, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA quotes Police General Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov in charge of public order department at the Russian Interior Ministry, who said that several groups attempted to provoke disorder during Sunday gatherings. At least 17 policemen were hurt in clashes with crowds, he said.

The KOMMERSANT newspaper, commenting on the creation of the new Russian movement for democratic reforms, led by Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov, stressed that "Popov initiated a political structure that could become a base for a strong executive power, at least in Moscow".

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's adviser Sergey Shakhray comments in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY about relations between Russia and Ukraine. The first signs of normalisation in economic relations between the two republics are already evident, he said.

Press Review for 25 Feb

LD2502065492 Moscow TASS in English 0600 GMT 25 Feb 92

["Russian Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—Today all national newspapers report the situation in Moscow and other Russian cities, where rallies and demonstrations were held on Army Day. On February 23 the fatherland traditionally hails the military work of its defenders, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. The Moscow government marked the day in the spirit of new times—by fists and batons of OMON [special purpose militia detachment] troops, who clamped down on war veterans, Afghan veterans, servicemen, who "dared" to place wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Russian leaders placed wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, while Muscovites, approaching the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were met with "democrats'" truncheons, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA points out in a report from Manezh Square, where the action took place. "From a distance of 200 meters it is difficult to hear what people are shouting. A rubber truncheon goes up—an OMON trooper strikes an elderly invalid, who tries to defend himself with a crutch. The crowd's steady hum turns into an uproar,"—this is how the newspaper's correspondent described the events of that day. "Chains of OMON and police, barricading central streets in the city, only provoked the masses, willing to go to the Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Blood was shed and dozens of people were hospitalised," a PRAVDA correspondent reports. Russian Federation People's Deputy N. Pavlov, who took part in the rally, told SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "I think, on Sunday, February 23, Moscow democrats finally dropped their masks. Instead of sweet and touching masks they showed strong teeth and fists. I believe, Russia's Supreme Soviet will give an assessment of what had happened."

PRAVDA, describing the situation in Moscow streets on that day, asks: "What does the use of truncheons and tear gas against demonstrators on a public holiday mean? Evidently, all this is a result of the government's deep fear before the people, who showed their power and active rejection of reforms, implemented at the expense of workers, already at a rally on February 9."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA says that hopes were shattered on that day. "February 23, 1992 will remain in our memory as a day when the last hopes for justice and compassion crashed."

"Premonition of civil war..." is it not exaggerated by the post- Communist government, which, by its, what's the mild word for it, apprehension not only does not dissipate danger, but exaggerates it," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA asks.

Authorities are probably resorting to truncheons not because they are afraid, but to convince society that there is a "red-brown threat", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. After the disintegration of the CPSU the place of an "internal enemy" has become vacant.

"Do not hinder the government," said President of the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange Konstantin Borovoy. In PRAVDA he analyses the activities of the Russian Government. "This is the first government that in the past seven and a half decades took courage to do something," he said. It faces the task of not only destroying—this time the command administrative system, but first and foremost—creating a new economy, new relations between people.

"Stop before it is too late," publicist Boris Kagarlitskiy disagrees, saying that "we are threatened with a complete destruction of the country's modern industrial potential, the country becoming a backward and poor backwater of the Western world and a loss of national independence". The course towards creating a market-capitalist economic model, chosen not only by the Russian leadership, but by practically all states of the former eastern bloc, cannot lead to economic revival and flourishing in these countries because "it took Western Europe four centuries to form—by untold difficulties and collisions—a system of more or less civilised market relations on a capitalist basis, produce the modern entrepreneur and ensure social stability".

Academician V. Zanin ponders about the problems of privatising the economy in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA. He maintains that the programme of privatisation, developed by the Russian Government, is anti- social. "The anonymous government privatisation programme, which insults citizens' economic and human dignity, should be ignored and protested at as illegal, i.e. contradicting Russian laws and presidential decrees," he believes.

The press pays much attention to the Armenian-Azeri conflict. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that "Azerbaijan issued a statement that forces of the 7th Army of the former Soviet Army, stationed in Armenia, are taking part in attacking Azeri border areas alongside Armenian military units". President Mutalibov held an emergency meeting with his military experts, where he assessed the events as "a genuine aggression by Armenia, being conducted with the support of the military command of the former USSR". TRUD writes that "the knot of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is tightening". Attacks on military units have increased, signalling the beginning of wide- scale military actions, the newspaper was told in the headquarters of the Transcaucasian Military District.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, NATO's Woerner 'Have Similar Aims'

LD2502104592 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalaev]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"We have opened a new chapter in relations between Russia and the North-Atlantic alliance," NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said after meeting Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin today.

"We had a very interesting exchange of views on a wide range of questions. We agreed to expand cooperation. We fully trust the new democratic Russia, rich in talent, spiritual values and potential and trust its leadership led by President Yeltsin," Woerner said.

He said he hopes that reforms in Russia succeed and wants to cooperate with Russia "as closely as possible".

Russia and NATO have similar aims—"to create a new Europe, where all citizens will live in conditions of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity," he said.

"Today's talks with Boris Yeltsin confirmed my opinion that he is determined to follow the course of reforms and is not alone in this," Woerner said.

Discuss Armed Forces, CIS

OW2502123792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [25 February] in the Kremlin the Russsian President Boris Yeltsin received the NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner.

According to well-informed sources the two leaders who did not face journalists after the meeting discussed the interaction of Russia and NATO, primarily in the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council set up at the end of last year.

They also spoke of the future of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces in the light of the decitions of the recent Minsk summit.

According to unofficial sources Boris Yeltsin and Manfred Woerner spoke of the prospects of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in connection with the intentions of some CIS countries to set up their own armies. The possible proliferation of nuclear technologies from Russia was also on the agenda.

At their first ever meeting the leaders of Russia and NATO raised other questions too. When a group of newsmen was allowed to enter the negotiating room for several minutes President Yeltsin was saying that Russian leaders intend to introduce "a truly civilized attitude to the church, not only the Russian Orthodox but other denominations as well". "A believer should not be regarded as a second rate person", he said.

According to unconfirmed reports, the Russian president was invited to visit the NATO headquarters in Brussels in the near future.

A news conference with the NATO leader will be held at the press center of the Russian government later today.

Woerner Confers With Shaposhnikov

LD2502001292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia and NATO are partners, not enemies, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner stated at a meeting with Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States Joint Armed Forces.

The sides discussed the events taking place in the CIS, the future of the Commonwealth's Armed Forces, and the possibility of closer cooperation in ensuring security in Europe. Shaposhnikov thanked the NATO head for assistance in delivering humanitarian aid. He noted that NATO has no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of the CIS. [video shows meeting and interview with Shaposhnikov]

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] If some help is needed, we will ask. I believe that there will be military assistance, most probably assistance in cooperation, assistance in military reform, because the armies of the NATO countries already have such features as professional armies, for example, and contract service. We do not have these things. We reached agreement on such matters and will, so to speak, cooperate on principles of mutual trust and respect. Thank you. [end recording]

NATO Interested in CIS Survival

OW2402182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander in chief of the CIS armed forces, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] and Russian television that at his Monday's [24 February] meeting with NATO's Secretary General Manfred Woerner in Moscow he discussed "developments in the CIS as well as military questions. Particular attention was paid to nuclear arms."

"I could see for myself that we have many common approaches with our neighbors and that the West is interested in the survival of the CIS. I was very pleased to hear the NATO leader say that the problems of the CIS are the Commonwealth's purely internal affair", Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said NATO was ready to give assistance to the CIS. "I do not think we will need military assistance, though", he added. The CIS commander in chief believes it is worth borrowing from NATO experience in carrying out military reforms, for instance in forming a professional army on the contract basis.

Kozyrev, Burbulis Receive Woerner

LD2402175292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1439 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Esteemed listeners! Many of you may know already that NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner is visiting the Commonwealth of Independent States. I remind you that he has visited Kiev already and is now in Moscow. My colleague, Mayak correspondent Igor Sidorovich, is covering Manfred Woerner's stay in the Russian capital. I now hand over to him.

[Sidorovich] Today, Manfred Woerner had talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and with with Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces. Woerner's meeting with Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy premier of the Government of Russia, should be finishing at this moment and his meeting with Aleksandr Rutskoy should then begin. Unfortunately, I do not have precise information about this. Nevertheless, the main conclusions about the results of the visit to our country by the NATO secretary general can be drawn only tomorrow, after his meeting with President of Russia Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. But, it is possible to say a few things already now. In the short interval between the meeting with Foreign Minister Kozyrev and Woerner's meeting with Marshal Shaposhnikov, the NATO secretary general stole a few minutes to talk to journalists.

[Begin recording] [Woerner in English, fading into superimposed correspondent's report in Russian] NATO created the Cooperation Council and adopted the decision to invite all states of the CIS to that Council. The first meeting will take place on 10 March. We have already discussed that part of the program on further steps for cooperation, for the transition from theory to specifics, elaborating the details in advance, Manfred Woerner said.

Does that mean that Russia will soon become a member of NATO? This is what Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in answer to that question.

[Kozyrev] We are not raising the question of Russia's immediate entry into NATO. What is much more important today is [words indistinct] mutual understanding and so forth. Instead of grandiose ideas about joining NATO, we will work on finding a working mechanism embracing the broadest range of spheres of cooperation. [end recording]

Incidentally, one of the most important questions during the conversation tomorrow between Manfred Woerner and President Yeltsin was discussed in the Russian Foreign Ministry—the question of specific implementation of arms cuts agreements which have already been concluded and also further steps in this sphere. After all, the Helsinki-II meeting is planned for this summer; that's to say, a summit of CSCE member countries. Both Russia and the United States intend to attend it with adequate preparation. But so far, the most important thing is the 10 March meeting in Brussels. We will learn what President Yeltsin says about this meeting tomorrow.

And this is what Manfred Woerner said.

[Begin Woerner recording in English fading into superimposed correspondent's report in Russian] We came here as representatives of NATO prepared to show that former adversaries may become partners today. [end recording]

Woerner Meets With Rutskoy

OW2402210192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] NATO no longer regards Russia as a likely enemy and tends to see it as partner, the alliance's Secretary General Manfred Woerner said on Monday [24 February]. He was speaking at a meeting with the Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in the Kremlin.

The two sides discussed the conversion of defence industries, military cooperation and opportunities for building joint ventures in the territory of the former GDR with the use of German technologies. Woerner made it clear that Germany was interested in a stable Russian economy and unified control of nuclear arms and technologies. He said that Germany was not going to interfere in the affairs of the Russian Federation. "We would like to do away with the legacy of the past to avoid more wars", Woerner said after the meeting.

Later in the day Rutskoy met with the Deputy Chairman of the Socialist International Hans-Johen Vogel. They discussed Russian-German relations and the outlook for expanding them.

Vice-President Rutskoy has briefed the German visitor on progress in economic, political and military reforms in Russia.

Hans-Johen Vogel said the Socialist International was interested in closer ties with democratic forces in Russia. Vice-President Rutskoy said at the meeting that in his political activity he is going to rely on the "Free Russia" political party he has founded.

Khasbulatov in Strasbourg Denies CIS 'Crisis'

PM2502091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Ruslan Khasbulatov Rejects Prediction of CIS Collapse at Meeting of Speakers of European Parliaments in Strasbourg"]

[Text] Strasbourg—Once again the situation in the former Soviet Union, partly contrary to the announced agenda, has occupied a special place in the sessions of a representative international forum. This time it was at the meeting of 40 speakers of European countries' parliaments organized in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe. Moreover, Russians and Balts used the Palace of Europe "for settling scores between one another," LES DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE stresses.

Democracy cannot exist without economy, Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth recalled. She called on Western parliaments to put pressure on their governments to grant aid to the CIS and East European countries. In the absence of aid, democracy in those countries would find itself threatened.

All the same, the most interesting event, from the point of view of journalists covering the Strasbourg forum, was the news conference by Ruslan Khasbulatov, speaker of the Russian parliament.

Coincidently, on the day of Khasbulatov's meeting with journalists, Western newspapers printed a REUTERS dispatch on the news conference held in Moscow by Galina Starovoytova, state counselor and Russian deputy. Her statement provoked a notable response here.

In Starovoytova's words, the Commonwealth of Independent States will soon collapse, creating a new geopolitical situation in Europe and Asia. The CIS is a transitional stage in the disintegration of the Soviet empire into independent states, each of which will have its own army. "The Commonwealth," in the words of the deputy, whom REUTERS calls B. Yeltsin's main adviser on national and ethnic questions, "is a gentleman's agreement between prisoners who have escaped from the same jail, but who are still bound by the same chain."

"No one should have expected the new Commonwealth to start to live a full-blooded life as soon as it was proclaimed," R. Khasbulatov stressed at his news conference, when your correspondent asked him to comment on this statement. "Of course, there will be conflicts. But we see how many contradictions Western peoples had to overcome on the road to integration."

"To talk of a crisis in the CIS is frivolous and superficial," the speaker of the Russian parliament went on to say. "It is simply being born in conditions of crisis. Nevertheless, the peoples of the former republics are seeking to preserve reasonable economic and cultural relations of some kind. Why in this situation intensify the contradictions between us by false predictions? What do the peoples of the former republics stand to gain if economic ties between us are severed? Attempts at superficial prediction are quite groundless, although, of course, they have a right to exist...."

[Unidentified reporter] The disagreement in the president's closest entourage is astonishing....

[Khasbulatov] That is a question for the president. There is no disagreement in my entourage. [Apparent end of Khabulatov quote]

As for the "settling of scores" between Russians and Balts, this happened after the Latvian Supreme Council Chairman A. Gorbunovs, also in Strasbourg, accused "certain circles in the East" of "economic sabotage" and even of a "blockade" of his republic. He also stated that Russians are dragging out the withdrawal of troops.

"The Latvian state received freedom at the hands of Russia," R. Khasbulatov recalled. "Surely it was not us, the leaders of Russia, who sent the troops there? We are now seeking to withdraw them on a more or less organized basis. If we had our way, we would do this tomorrow. But where will we withdraw these troops to, where will we put them? Where are the cities and villages which are ready to accept them? Our friends from the Baltic countries should understand our difficulties."

The speaker of the Russian parliament reacted negatively to the call made by A. Gorbunovs for Western countries to "invest funds in the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states," on the grounds that it would be "more profitable" for them than to strengthen their own defense.

"The Western countries' wealth is the labor of their peoples," Khasbulatov explained his position. "Why should we in the former Soviet republics be asking all the time for Western aid on various grounds? As if prosperity in Western countries falls from the sky. That means taking away part of the ordinary working person's prosperity in order to solve what are our own problems, created by this very Gorbunovs and his predecessors. We have the same attitude to this Army as Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. We inherited it all."

Kozyrev, Baker Preview Africa, Brussels Trips

LD2402161492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1522 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke today over the telephone with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from a source close to the Russian minister that the heads of the foreign policy departments discussed a set of questions connected with their meetings in Brussels on 10-11 March and also with the problem of the development of the peace settlement process in Angola in light of the trip to the south of Africa by the Russian foreign minister which is beginning in a few days.

Kozyrev on NATO Responsibility in Human Rights

PM2502092192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Russia Proposes That the United Nations Defend Human Rights More Effectively"]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has sent a letter to UN Secretary General B. Butrus Ghali putting forward his view on the role of the United Nations in international politics.

The Russian minister devotes special attention to defending human rights. In his opinion, "the principle of noninterference in the affairs of states cannot serve as a 'safe conduct' for the violation of human rights... The Security Council is entitled to use its authority where emergency situations arise."

Kozyrev proposes that the Security Council adopt a special document "stressing the responsibility of the civilized world in defending human rights and individual freedoms and defining methods of influencing states which violate them." It is necessary, the minister believes, "to devise criteria in accordance with which so-called internal conflicts could be subject to examination in regional and subregional organs, and if necessary, in the Security Council."

Kozyrev repeated the idea he put forward at the beginning of the month in Geneva of creating "rapid reaction units formed on a contract basis from special subunits of various countries, including the permanent members of the Security Council. This would be an important factor in deterring potential aggressors."

UN Moves in SFRY Called 'Major Act of Peace'

LD2402152492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1425 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (TASS)—Moscow welcomes the Security Council's adoption of a resolution on establishing a UN peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia. At all stages of preparing this decision, Russian diplomacy aspired to contribute to the efforts of the UN secretary general and his representatives with due account of the interests of all the parties involved. This was stated at a briefing today by head of the Russian Foreign Ministry information directorate Vitaliy Churkin.

"What is now required of all the interested parties is restraint and precision in fully complying with the provisions of the Security Council resolution, the prevention of any violations of the cease-fire agreement, and practical assistance in implementing the UN operation," he continued. "We call on everyone in Yugoslavia and outside the country to provide every assistance to the UN forces being deployed in the shortest time and in an atmosphere guaranteeing the security and effectiveness of this major act of peace."

Concerns Over Mideast Violence

LD2402181792 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin said the time which passed since the Arab-Israeli talks in Madrid has shown that the sides made the right choice opting for a dialogue to reach a comprehensive solution of the Middle East conflict.

The statement was made at a briefing at the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Centre on Monday [24 February] in connection with the opening of the fourth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington today.

Churkin expressed concern about the recent wave of violence in the Middle East. He said measures should be taken to rule out negative consequences of such events for the peace process in the region.

He expressed hope that the parties participating in the talks in Washington will show goodwill, realism and readiness to compromise.

More on Starovoytova's 20 Feb News Briefing

PM2402145992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Stanislav Oganyan: "Georgraphy Is the Main Lesson of History. At the Russian Government Press Center"]

[Text] Galina Starovoytova, adviser to the Russian president on interethnic relations, began her news conference yesterday with this aphorism. Russia and Europe have now moved further apart geopolitically and geographically, she said. Russia is girded by a belt of new and as yet friendly states. The kind of relations it will have with them will also be decided now.

In the new conditions, Russia will have to recognize its altered status in Eurasia and in the world as a whole. This is due to the fact that Russia has voluntarily abandoned the role of so-called elder brother, although the former fraternal republics' suspicion of it, as the center of great-power chauvinism, has not yet been eradicated.

Describing the CIS, she called it a transitional structure, intended to ensure the peaceful transformation of this, apparently the last empire. Talking about the prospects for mutual relations among the new states in the present

CIS, she voiced confidence that the Union Treaty idea of Academician Sakharov, who proposed equality for all members of the then Union and proposed a flexible shape for the union, which is the structure that is embodied to some extent in the CIS today, will prevail sooner or later.

Sovereignty of states, integrity and permanence of existing borders—that is one of the fundamental principles of the structure of the world today, she said, but it contradicts somewhat another fundamental principle—the peoples' right to self-determination. Which is more important and which should get priority? In Galina Starovoytova's view, priority should go to the second principle; that is, the peoples' right to self-determination. The people are the only basis for a civic society and state. So their interests should take precedence over the interests of sovereignty. Although she did say that the principle of the peoples' right to self-determination had to be restricted to some extent.

Having noted that Russia had lost a great deal of land for which the blood of many generations of the Russian people had been shed, she said that the process was possibly not over yet, although she did not explain what she meant and what territories might in the future claim their right to autonomy. There was a question about the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh republic. There is a war going on there, G. Starovoytova said, and it is highly likely that many states will become involved in it. She called the Karabakh situation a litmus paper, which could shed light on the position of the leaders of the new independent states. Will the CIS leaders react to this war? Will they stand by and watch as hundreds or thousands of civilians are being killed? The meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers, which opened in Moscow on 20 February as a result of mediation by the Russian Foreign Ministry, could go a long way toward answering that question.

There was another question about the draft Russian Federation Constitution that is being elaborated. Galina Starovoytova said that it is based on a good idea; that is, the formation of territories with a high degree of self-government. The draft constitution envisages that republics will join Russia both on a treaty and on a constitutional basis, although she voiced the fear that the present body of deputies might be too conservative, which might mean that the new constitution would be rejected. The question of an early re-election of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies should now be raised. Galina Starovoytova said that relations were pretty strained between the Russian Government and parliament as a result. This was apparent in the mere fact that Shakhray, Russian state counselor and government vice premier, was prevented from entering the "White House" recently.

Journalists asked her to describe Kravchuk's role in the CIS. He behaves like a president elected by the people, Galina Starovoytova said. He thinks first and foremost of Ukraine's interests. All his proposals are the product of painstaking legal analysis, and we should not be shocked by his desire to provide Ukraine with its own army, security service, and all the attributes of a sovereign state. He is acting on the basis of an overview of existing circumstances, she said in conclusion.

'Secret' Pentagon Plan Includes Lithuania

PM2402172792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report under the "IZVESTIYA Teletype Room" rubric: "Pentagon Preparing Scenario of War Against Russia"]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has in its possession a secret Pentagon study prepared within the framework of long-term planning of U.S. defense needs. For the first time it includes Lithuania in the sphere of "U.S. vital interests" and, in the event of an invasion of Lithuania by Moscow, it envisages the start of a large-scale war against Russia by the United States and NATO.

According to the newspaper, this secret study, which has been prepared for purposes of Pentagon budget planning through the end of the present century, portrays Russia as the most "potentially serious threat to U.S. interests" and envisages that the United States will head a NATO counterattack against Russia in the event of aggression against Lithuania.

The plan of war on the "Lithuanian front"—the scenario—provides for large-scale operations to be waged on land, in the air, and at sea, in which 24 NATO divisions, 70 air squadrons, and six carrier-borne combined units will be mobilized. The main salients of bombing strikes to destroy the enemy's lines of communication, the salients of tank strikes, and the strategy of operations by U.S. ships to blockade the Russian fleet "in the eastern part of the Baltic" have been outlined for them.

Stress on Regional, Not Global

PM2402173992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Artur Blinov: "Pentagon Scenario in Case of Global Conflict. Russia and United States Fight, Ukraine Remains Neutral"]

[Text] Washington—With the ending of the "cold war" the U.S. Armed Forces are being reoriented to the prospect of involvement not in a world conflict but in regional combat situations. However, the potential for muscle-building in case of new "global rivalry" must be preserved. This is the belief of the U.S. Defense Department strategists who have prepared a list of conjectural conflicts into which the United States might be drawn before the end of this century (see IZVESTIYA No 43).

This week U.S. newspapers—THE NEW YORK TIMES and then THE WASHINGTON POST—have told their readers of a secret plan drawn up deep within the

Pentagon in connection with the current reduction and reorganization of the U.S. Armed Forces. The plan was prepared under the leadership of Paul Wolfowitz, under secretary of defense for policy, and Admiral David Jeremiah, vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. On 4 February it was passed to the leaders of the categories of troops for familiarization. Despite the secrecy stamps, it soon ended up on the editorial desks of two leading U.S. newspapers. And a brief account of it ended up on the newspaper pages.

As the plan's authors emphasize, U.S. military strategy must serve as a "deterrent" to the emergence in the current decade of a global "rival with hostile intentions or an international coalition pursuing an aggressive expansionist policy in the security sphere." To these ends the United States should preserve its advantages in the spheres of technology and doctrine and "maintain a real ability to build up its forces."

The plan, which, according to the newspaper reports, consists of several documents, states that the U.S. Armed Forces must, if necessary, be ready to intervene in an international conflict or even in an "emergency," if it affects U.S. "vital interests."

It cites as an illustration seven "hypothetical," i.e. conjectural or even speculative, situations which, despite these provisos, are based on real existing intelligence information and appraisals.

The first such scenario concerns Iraq. The embargo and the trade sanctions against that country could be weakened or become ineffective by 1995. This will enable the Iraqis to reequip their tank divisions, acquire 100-150 combat aircraft, and set military aims such as the seizure of petroleum-extraction regions and ports in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In such a case the U.S. Armed Forces are faced with "detaining" and then, in conjunction with coalition forces, routing the Iraqi Army. This will require 54 days of combat operations of medium and high intensity.

Another scenario is in the Far East. "Under cover of a smoke screen of peace initiatives" the DPRK attacks the ROK with a view to quickly capturing Seoul. Here it might possess between five and ten nuclear weapons, although it will have no intention of using them, except perhaps in the event of a "threat to national survival" or of catastrophic defeat. Precisely 91 days of military operations, including 28 days of a vigorous counteroffensive, will be sufficient to defeat such an attack. Two scenarios concern attempted military coups—in the Philippines and in Panama.

But the seventh scenario is the most curious one. It "could create an awkward diplomatic situation" for the U.S. Administration, THE WASHINGTON POST believes. Particularly in the light of the joint declaration by Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin and U.S. President G. Bush at Camp David: They announced that "Russia and the United States do not consider each other potential enemies." But the Pentagon argues about a scheme of operations in the event of "a Russian attack on Lithuania"—which will affect "U.S. vital interests." It is assumed that such an attack could be carried out on the pretext of protecting Russians in Lithuania—in the region of the Polish-Lithuanian border (with capture of part of the territory of not only Lithuania but also Poland). At the same time it is assumed that Belarus will participate on Russia's side and that Ukraine will be neutral. The response to this must be the mobilization and direct military participation of NATO and U.S. Armed Forces. The matter will not go so far as a nuclear war, and NATO will achieve victory as a result of 89 days of military operations, including 21 days and nights of "intensive war."

The U.S. press reports that the Pentagon's scenarios have aroused skepticism among the members of Congress who have seen them. Many see them as none other than an attempt to justify the preservation of the vast military machine created during the "cold war" years or, at least, of its most significant components.

'Hampered' Media Discussed in Aspen Dialogue

LD2402220392 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Sochi February 24 TASS—Over 60 media leaders, journalists, publishers, scholars and entrepreneurs met in Sochi on Monday [24 February] for a 4-day conference to discuss "free economy and mass media in Russia and the USA".

This is the second such conference in the framework of the Aspen dialogue, which began in September 1991 in Aspen, Colorado.

The participants stressed that the process of formation of an independent market of the free mass media in Russia is being hampered by the political and economic instability in the country.

ITAR-TASS general-director Vitaliy Ignatenko pointed to the "resistance of old structures" to publications on the pace of economic reforms and privatisation. He also mentioned the inefficient political system, distorted methods of management and the social and political instability as main factors hindering the movement towards the real freedom of speech.

Vitaliy Urazhtsev, head of the Union for Social Protection of Servicemen, who is attending the conference as a guest, said the press in Russia is "still controlled by former party functionaries and nomenclature".

Participants in the conference also discussed prospects for financing and carrying out joint mass media projects.

Economic Agreement Signed With Ukraine

PM2102144092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

["Agreement Between Russia and Ukraine on the Stabilization of Economic Ties in 1992"—signed by Russian President B. Yeltsin and Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk in Minsk 14 February 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation and Ukraine, herein after called the parties, with a view to creating the most favorable economic and legal conditions for entrepreneurial activity by all types of economic structures and developing market relations and broad economic ties, have agreed on the following:

Article 1

Trade and economic relations between the parties are to be implemented on a basis of mutual benefit. Each party will refrain from actions economically detrimental to the other.

Article 2

A single monetary unit (the ruble) is used for mutual settlements between consumers and suppliers located on the territories of the parties. It also is used as the means of financial settlements, credit provision, and other financial operations between the parties.

Article 3

Enterprises, associations, and organizations of all organizational and legal forms registered on the territories of the parties are entitled to create joint enterprises on the territories of both parties, provided the relevant legislation is complied with.

Article 4

Enterprises, associations, and organizations—irrespective of forms of ownership—are to observe the tax system of the party on the territory of which they are located.

Article 5

The parties are to take measures aimed at preventing enterprises, associations, and organizations of both parties from reexporting output supplied to each other. They are to maintain the existing procedure for the passage of means of transport belonging to enterprises, associations, and citizens on the territories of both parties. The procedure for transportation of freight, including transit freight, and for the pumping of oil and gas and transmission of electricity is to be defined in separate agreements.

Until such agreements are signed, the existing procedure is to be taken as a basis.

Article 6

The sides pledge to adopt measures ensuring that in February this year enterprises, associations, and organizations—irrespective of forms of ownership—located on the territories of both states conclude economic contracts for the delivery of output in 1992 and fulfill them in accordance with the volumes of deliveries allotted to them by government organs in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement, and that the conclusion of contracts for deliveries of other types of output is completed.

The parties will ensure the adoption of orders for the delivery of output by all enterprises, associations, and organizations—irrespective of forms of ownership—under the intergovernmental agreement within the limits of the quotas stipulated, and also will ensure liability for failing to conclude contracts for the delivery of output. The parties will create a permanent arbitration and conciliation body to examine economic disputes that arise.

Article 7

Output included in the appendices to the agreements concluded between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine, and between the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources and the Ukrainian Ministry of the Economy is subject to licensing; notices of the assignment of consumers to suppliers issued by the regulating bodies of both parties within the limits of the quotas stipulated are deemed to be licenses for the export of output from their territories. The list of licensed goods may be updated by agreement between the parties.

Article 8

The parties do not approve the practice whereby suppliers located on the territories of the parties put forward demands for the reciprocal delivery of output supplied to consumers in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement.

Article 9

For the most important types of output the parties may carry out settlements in rubles taking into account the coefficients agreed on relating to the level of world prices, or in the case of monopoly enterprises they may introduce restricted prices.

Article 10

In order to formulate and implement concrete measures to fulfill the present agreement and monitor its observance, a bilateral intergovernmental commission is to be set up by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine.

Enacted in Minsk 14 February 1992 in two copies, each in Russian and Ukrainian. Both texts have identical force.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk

Economic Relations on Polish Delegation Agenda

LD1902035192 Warsaw PAP in English 0039 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 18—Russia thinks that March 16-18 would be the best date for President Lech Walesa to visit Moscow and consider the visit would make it easier to solve problems in Polish-Russian relations. Such a suggestion was conveyed in Moscow to a delegation of the Polish parliament.

Head of the Polish parliamentary delegation chairman of the Senate committee for international affairs Edward Wende said that the date suggested by Russians was not a formal specification of the date of the visit that would be fixed through diplomatic channels but expressed only Russia's expectations.

Cooperation between Polish and Russian parliaments and Polish-Russian economic relations were the main topic of talks of the Polish delegation with the authorities of the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation and the Russian Government.

Polish Sejm deputies and senators, who came to Moscow as part of traditional contacts of foreign committees of Polish and Russian parliaments, were received by Chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The Polish parliamentary delegation met also Russian Vice Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin and Sergey Shakhrey and had talks at the Russian Foreign Ministry and committees of the Russian Supreme Council.

Both sides discussed the supplies of Russian gas to Poland, cooperation of both states in the Kaliningrad district and joint steps to fight organized crime. Russia confirmed its readiness to fulfill obligations stemming from the agreement on the supplies of gas signed last December and offered an assurance that there would not be organized resettlement of Germans living in Russia to the Kaliningrad district.

Joint Projects With German Council Discussed

LD2402133392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1950 GMT 19 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Excerpts] Bonn, 18 Feb (TASS)—The expansion of bilateral contacts in the most varied fields was the main topic of the first session of the permanent consultative council of the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany on economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation held in the small town of Koenigswinter near Bonn today. The Russian delegation was led by Andrey Nechayev, first deputy minister of the economy and finances; on the German side, Dieter von Wuerzen, state secretary at the FRG Ministry of the Economy; and representatives of entrepreneurs' associations and business circles took part in the talks.

During the closing news conference, both sides expressed satisfaction with the work that was done. [passage omitted]

The main significance of the present meeting, Andrey Nechayev pointed out, is that it will accelerate the implementation of many bilateral projects. A number of specific decisions were made during the meeting of the working groups. For instance, the working group on the extraction of oil, gas, and other types of raw material drew up projects aimed at expanding cooperation in developing new deposits and in solving transportation problems.

At the meeting of the group on cooperation in the sphere of agriculture and the food industry, the German side expressed readiness to help the privatization process and to give assistance in training Russian small farmers. The FRG Ministry of the Economy is prepared to receive a group of specialists from Russia. The German side also proposed sending specialists to Moscow to give consultations on the spot in the fields of banking and financial activity.

For our part, the head of the Russian delegation noted, we paid particular attention to the problems of conversion. Against the background of the sharp fall in military production, the switch to turning out civilian goods is growing tremendously important, from both the economic and social points of view. It is very pleasing, he stressed, that we managed during the meeting of the working group to reach specific accords to help accelerate the implementation of this program, which is most important for the Russian economy.

Exported Gas Prices Set

OW2402202392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Germany have agreed on the price of Russia's exported gas. The agreement was produced by a session of the Russian-German Consultative Council in Bonn. Under the treaties concluded with the GDR Russia has been selling gas at prices far below those in the free market. Russia's Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev has said the sides have reached a compromise. Prices will be raised but remain below the world level.

Background of 'Complex' Kurils Dispute Examined

PM2102150192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Aleksandr Anichkin: "Kurils Outline. Is Agreement With Japan Possible?"]

[Excerpts] Agreement has been reached on Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan this September. Prior to this there should be an exchange of visits by the Russian and Japanese foreign ministers. Sessions of the peace treaty joint working group will be held. As on the eve of

Mikhail Gorbachev's Tokyo trip last year, feelings are running high over the main unresolved issue in Soviet-Japanese (and now Russo-Japanese) relations—the territorial issue. So much has been written about this protracted dispute over the Southern Kuril Islands that it is probably unnecessary to discuss them specially. But this complex problem is too often reduced to a simple question of whether they should be handed back or not. Of course, it is hard to see things any differently. But it is possible to try and look at things more broadly than an everyday "that is yours, this is mine" approach.

The Legacy That Must Not Be Abandoned

The successor country [to the USSR] accepts this situation with all its advantages and disadvantages. Perhaps the main problem now facing the new Russian diplomacy is that of Russia's attitude to the treaties, agreements, and other accords and pledges entered into by the Union. These represent more than 16,000 documents, including some which—either partly or wholly—are out of line with Russia's interests or simply compromise Russia, such as the treaty with Iraq for example.

But, of course, it is impossible to abandon previous agreements and conclude them anew with every country, group of countries, or international organization. First, because Russia would then be deprived of its entire international relations infrastructure for an unacceptably long time. Second, because as soon as the bilateral agreement revision mechanism got into gear there would be a reaction in response. Russia's partners too, needless to say, are trying to amend agreements that are not to their liking. A recent example is the situation in relations with Finland.

There is one obvious solution: To reaffirm, forthwith, all the Union's treaties and obligations, and only subsequently to begin the process of gradually amending them—and, in a number of cases, repealing them.

Relations with Japan make up one of the most involved diplomatic problems which Russia has inherited from the Union. They are unique in that the legal basis for them is provided not by a treaty but by the 1956 Joint Declaration ending the state of war and establishing diplomatic relations. Strange though it may seem almost 50 years after the war ended, there is simply no other, more important document on the foundations of relations between our two countries. There is no getting away from the Joint Declaration, but it contains a direct and unambiguous commitment on the territorial issue. Rejecting the declaration would mean wrecking diplomatic relations and returning to a state of war. The option of revising the declaration might seem attractive. However, as it is pointed out by international law experts who have analyzed the situation, bilateral documents cannot be revised unilaterally.

For a long time the Soviet side pretended that the question of territorial demarcation with Japan was completely closed and had been irrevocably resolved once and for all.

Now, it seems, there is a growing view in Moscow that the new Russia can no longer insist on this position. The Union, according to this view, adhered to an illegal and unjust position which, moreover, was not in Russia's national interests.

Reprising the Arguments in This Long-Running Dispute

Not everyone knows that the 1956 Joint Declaration was just one of several documents signed at that time. Before the main document was drawn up, letters were exchanged between Gromyko and Matsumoto which defined the sides' actions in the interim period between the signing of the declaration and the conclusion of a peace treaty. These stipulated that any agreement on the transfer of Shikotan and Habomai to Japan would be merely the first phase of a territorial settlement. The destiny of Kunashir and Iturup would be decided during the next phase, and resolution of this issue would be seen as a condition for the signing of a peace treaty. One way or another, some kind of settlement will have to be found in respect of all the islands. [passage omitted]

On the National Pride of the Great Russians and the Japanese

When all other sensible arguments have been exhausted, discussions most often boil down to national pride. As traditionally understood—in the sense that became enshrined throughout the centuries when force was considered right and logical—the transfer of territories from one state's sovereignty to that of another state has always been seen as a concession by the weaker party. This is the way many people in both Russia and Japan would view the handover of the islands to Japan. Although, of course, in both Russia and Japan there are more and more people who believe that a territorial settlement in one form or another would merely promote the establishment of good neighborly relations. The kind of relations which the great Russian patriot, diplomat, and military man Admiral Yevfimiy Putyatin had in mind when he signed the 1855 Treaty.

But, nonetheless, what kind of national pride are those who insist on "not giving an inch" talking about? It is hard to admit being wrong. It is shameful to openly and insolently refuse to do what you promised. When this applies to individuals it is a personal drama and a personal disgrace. When it applies to a great nation, it is a national tragedy and, perhaps, a national disgrace. It is the right and duty of the strong to be fair; reliance on force is the refuge of the weak.

Russia will never restore the honor and dignity of a great nation if it does not learn to admit its own mistakes. In respect both of other peoples and of its own people. Recognizing the existence of the territorial issue and putting it on the agenda was a step forward taken by Gorbachev and Shevardnadze. But, in the wake of this, are we to do nothing and just leave thousands of people worried about their own future, their children's future, and their prosperity?

The position and feelings of the older generation, who grew up in the belief that what was won with blood should be defended at all costs, are understandable. (Although, just what was won—seeing that the islands were taken AFTER the end of the war?) But it is incomprehensible when serious politicians of national standing encourage people to defend positions whose weakness they themselves cannot fail to realize. Unfortunately, this is too reminiscent of cynical speculation on the sincere patriotism of most Russians.

The "pragmatic" approach currently being put about—selling the islands, and for as high a price as possible—looks equally cynical, incidentally. Of course, resolution of the territorial problem would open up vast new opportunities for cooperation with Japan. But this is precisely the kind of issue where, joking aside, trade is inappropriate—it is a question of the honor and dignity of two great nations.

Hoping For the Status Quo To Be Recognized Is No Solution

Nonetheless, if we put emotion to one side, why do we not wait for the status quo to be finally established—as in Europe—and for dozens of nations to sit down at a "round table" and recognize the inviolability of postwar borders, as happened in 1975 in Helsinki? First, Asia is not Europe. The Asian states' histories and the weight they carry in the world are too different. It was no accident that all Moscow's calls in the past for a process in Asia along the lines of the all-European process met with a reaction that was at best politely indifferent and more often coolly negative. Second, how many problems and lost opportunities for Russia have built up because of this one issue.

Look at Russia's state border in the Kurils. This border is not protected in terms of treaty law and is not recognized de jure by Japan or by many other countries. Such a border can only be asserted by force—but this must not be done, because of generally accepted procedures in international law. This brings into play not just political but even moral and psychological problems. The conflict situation is being constantly reproduced. Diplomats despair about the deadlock, when there is no chance to resolve, quietly and in detail, a very old problem. Looking at the big picture, the current situation with the islands turns them into one of the conflict-ridden destabilizing areas in the entire Asia-Pacific region. Not to mention the fact that it prevents Russia's full participation in regional economic structures, where Japan's voice carries weight.

Above all, it should be said loud and clear that a reaffirmation of the 1956 Joint Declaration would not mean the automatic and immediate handover of two islands to Japan. This starting point would make the diplomatic talks easier and would, perhaps, reassure Russian society. Although it seems somewhat absurd to reaffirm a document ratified by parliament when nobody has formally repealed it. The Soviet Government went back on its promise to hand over the islands to Japan only in 1960, when Tokyo signed a security treaty with the United States.

The start of the talks themselves could be sufficient reaffirmation. The Joint Declaration indicates the principle but does not define either the mechanism, procedure, or conditions for that principle to be implemented. It will take time to agree in detail on everything necessary, and then even more time—perhaps decades—to implement everything.

The eight meetings of the Soviet and Japanese Foreign Ministries' peace treaty working group agreed on many approaches, but virtually no progress was made on the territorial issue. The first meeting of the Russo-Japanese working group, which now exists on a new basis, was held in early February. Judging by the response from the participants, the talks promise to be anything but easy, but it is important to be moving toward a solution. In the interests of Russians, Russia, and lasting peace with our neighbor Japan.

Cossacks Consider Control

OW2402232392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the council of Russia's Cossack leaders has ended in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk with a demand to the mass media to stop the disinformation of the population over the Kuril islands. Besides, the conference called for handing the Kuril islands over to the Cossacks who would develop them and protect them.

The conference is reported to have also discussed the possibility of opening a local office of Moscow's Central Cossack Trade House in Sakhalin.

Rutskoy on Reforms, Honecker's Future

AU2402144892 Hamburg BILD in German 24 Feb 92 p 10

[Interview with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Three Questions, Mr. Rutskoy"]

[Text] [BILD] Russia's economy is deteriorating. Why?

[Rutskoy] We do not have any plans for real economic reform. There is no system behind it. We never look more than one day ahead, which is why not as many foreign companies as we would need come here. The government must finally draw up the necessary plans.

[BILD] Has Yeltsin done so?

[Rutskoy] He used to have an excellent reform concept for a regulated transition to the market economy. In practice, everything has been mixed up as if one were trying to take out somebody's tonsils not via the mouth but from behind.

[BILD] What will become of Erich Honecker?

[Rutskoy] Let the old man die in peace wherever he wants. He did not have an easy life, and he even sat in prison. One should grant him his last wish, especially since one could argue about his guilt. We have people here who are guilty of worse things. Likewise, our putschists should also be set free. They punished themselves severely enough.

Chubais in Vienna on Mass Privatization

AU2402085092 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 22 Feb 92 p 15

[Report by "ho": "Mass Privatization in Russia—Bad Climate for Foreign Investors"]

[Excerpt] Vienna—Mass privatization will begin in Russia before the end of this year. A.V. Chubais, minister of the Russian Federation and chairman of the State Committee for State Property, said at a news conference in Vienna that revenues of 92 billion rubles are expected to come from privatization. The capital will come from the underground economy, from private domestic sources, and from abroad. Enterprises will be sold in tenders and at auctions, and the staff of these enterprises will receive a share of 25 percent.

L.M. Grigoryev, deputy economics and finance minister, said at the news conference on the occasion of the Vienna meeting of entrepreneurs under the motto "The New Russia" that Russia is currently bearing the entire burden of the debt service, even though the country's share in the credit mountain of the Commonwealth of Independent States is no more than 61 percent. He admitted that trade and economic relations between the CIS republics have collapsed. The situation has, however, improved recently. He said that trade between companies is increasingly functioning on the basis of barter deals. Such deals are often approved by the responsible governments.

Russian Foreign Minister E.E. Obminskiy stressed that the conditions for foreign capital are not very good in his country. He said that there are only minor opportunities to make profits and transfer them abroad. The government is planning to improve the investment climate. Obminskiy said the fact that Russia does not get financial credits but only tied credits is a great problem. His country's financial bottleneck is making it impossible to service its debts.

Gold Reserves Have Disappeared, Embassies Are Being Sold

Russian Central Bank President G.G. Matyukhin stressed that the gold reserves have disappeared without trace, and nobody knows whether they are in Russia or abroad. The bank chief said he did not know how much his country is indebted; an estimate is being prepared. The West has estimated the debts at $70 billion. Matyukhin said that the former USSR granted $100 billion worth of credits, which cannot currently be recovered. According to the bank chief, there are, however, hopes that as the economic situation in some countries like Vietnam improves, they will be able to repay some of their debts. As was reported on the fringes of the meeting, which was organized by Postgraduate Services, Russia intends to sell a number of embassies abroad that represent substantial value because they are often excellently located. [passage omitted]

Bank in Position To Repay Debts 'In Full'

LD2202105992 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Vienna February 21 TASS—Russia is in a position to repay its debt to foreign creditors, Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the board of the Central Bank of Russia, said on February 20 here. Matyukhin delivered a report at the Creditanstalt bank.

A special commission, he said, was now set up to bring together the scattered figures and information regarding the activity of bankrupt Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Trade] and clear the "mess left behind by the communists".

As soon as creditable information on the state of affairs at Vneshekonombank becomes available, the current position will be reconsidered. Objective possibilities for debt repayment will change. Payments will be resumed in full.

In late November last year, Vneshekonombank suspended payments for servicing foreign debt, estimated at 65-79 billion dollars. Matyukhin described the bank's standing as unique. Its activity was controlled exclusively by the Communist Party Political Bureau and personally by the Soviet Prime Minister. Funds were transferred by their orders which, eventually, led to the bank's collapse and bankruptcy.

Matyukhin also criticised the current Russian leaders for failing to dismantle state monopoly prior to encouraging competition. The Russian Government should have first conducted privatisation and then gradually lift price controls. Instead, he said, the government opted for price liberalisation as a first step.

As a result, inflation, which stood at only 20 percent in 1991, jumped three and a half times this January as compared with 1991. This could be avoided even in the current difficult economic situation in Russia.

According to available information, national income in 1991 will be reduced by 11 percent, and state budget deficit will amount to 20 percent of the gross national product.

Speaking about the current relations between republics of the former Soviet Union, Matyukhin said nobody knows and can know today who owes what to whom. Economically the countries of the Commonwealth are still closely bound, and it is unlikely that one country will be able to get a firm foothold on the world market single-handedly.

Central Bank May Curb Republic Transfers

MK2102124192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 4

[Report by "Ye.K." under the "In Brief" rubric: "Interrepublic Clearing Instead of Single Market"]

[Text] The rumors that Russia is ready to take steps to restrict cash transactions with the former republics seem to have some foundation.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has received information from competent sources saying that the relevant draft has been prepared.

It says in particular that the Russian Central Bank is ready to suspend cash transfers to the central banks of those sovereign states that act as agents for the Russian Central Bank and are in debt to it.

On the one hand, this measure is by and large justified. The stream of credit emissions from the former republics is making it extremely difficult to stabilize monetary circulation.

At the same time the draft's authors have decided to go even further—it envisages not only freezing cash, but also noncash resources. The draft's authors realize that this innovation will drastically increase difficulties in economic relations between the former republics. They are even suggesting their method for treating this—an all-embracing, multilateral, interrepublic system. That is, in effect, a clearing system for reciprocal transactions [zachety] via the notorious clearing ruble that existed among the fraternal states of the socialist community. It was to this kind of exchange that Yegor Gaydar intended to switch relations with the republics of the former Union.

In other words, Russia will be able to buy agricultural produce from Belarus, for instance, for the same sum for which Belarus buys oil from it.

'Triple Monitoring' of Aid Deliveries Established

LD2002123892 Moscow TASS in English 0738 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Serikov]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 20 TASS—A special commission of the deputies of the city council has established a triple monitoring of the delivery of humanitarian aid supplies coming here through European Community channels.

When long-haul trucks enter the city, customs officers scrutinise the commmodity classification, an amount of supplies, and the route of movement and feed the information into a computer databank.

When the supplies are unloaded and stored, a deputies' commission for humanitarian aid checks the data supplied by the customs men with those available with the commission. The final element in monitoring the movement of food and medicines is the city's Red Cross society which distributes aid supplies among districts.

"Rumours that European canned meat and medicines are being stolen are absolutely unfounded," Tatyana Lineva, head of the city Red Cross society, told ITAR-TASS. "Powdered milk and canned food that are on sale in cooperative kiosks are handed over to them by city-folk themselves who receive them free of charge. There are instances of thefts but they are isolated. Besides, many of them have already been exposed by law enforcement agencies."

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Poltoranin Deputy Chairman

LD2402195692 Moscow TASS in English GMT 1901 24 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 24 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin "issued a decree on the appointment of Minister of Press and Information, Mikhail Poltoranin, a deputy chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation", according to today's issue of IZVESTIYA newspaper.

Yeltsin Decree To Help Press Published

PM2102170992 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Russian Federation presidential decree dated 20 February: "On Additional Measures of Legal and Economic Protection for the Periodical Press and State Book Publishing"]

[Text] With a view to strengthening the legal and economic foundations of the activity of the periodical press and book publishing, and to providing the necessary conditions for the appearance of socially important press publications during the transition to market relations **I resolve:**

1. That the Russian Federation Government shall draw up and submit a draft law "On the Professional Rights, Freedoms, and Obligations of Press Workers."

2. That newspaper and magazine editorial offices shall be entitled, within the limits of the remuneration funds available to them, to set pay rates for their workers and also the forms, systems, and size of such remuneration.

3. That the Russian Federation Government shall:

include in the Russian Federation state register of monopoly enterprises operating in commodity markets enterprises producing newsprint, book-grade paper, and binders' board, and also enterprises in printing machine building;

establish for 1992 that enterprises in the pulp and paper industry which are on the monopoly enterprise register shall supply newsprint, book-grade paper, and binders' board in amounts no less than 70 percent of the level of supplies to the state in 1991, with a view to ensuring publication by state publishing houses of educational, children's, and artistic books, encyclopedias, reference literature, art [izobrazitelnyy] publications, and magazines and newspapers published under programs ratified by the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information;

ensure that enterprises in the pulp and paper industry supplying newsprint, book-grade paper, and binders' board in 1992 receive the necessary raw materials in the aforesaid quantities on a priority basis;

establish fixed prices for newsprint, book-grade paper, and binders' board for monopoly enterprises in 1992 to cover deliveries to the state;

include newsprint, book-grade paper, and binders' board in the list of goods whose export will be covered by set quotas in 1992, and in the list of goods for which export and import licenses will be required in 1992;

suspend licenses issued to enterprises for the supply of output outside of the Russian Federation, should they fail to fulfill contracts for the delivery of newsprint, book-grade paper, or binders' board for state needs;

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry is to give priority consideration to the question of allocating resources to the Russian Federation Press and Information Ministry in freely convertible currency from the reserve currency fund for the purchase of book-grade paper and binders' board for textbooks and children's and art books;

state communications enterprises are to be compensated in 1992 for increased expenditure, compared with the previous year, on the delivery and distribution of newspapers and magazines within the framework of the 1991 subscription campaign by increasing mailing rates and intercity telephone rates;

The Russian Federation Economics Ministry and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry are to envisage in the draft budget for 1992 the allocation of appropriations to the Russian Federation Press and Information Ministry to subsidize the production of newspapers and magazines and socially important (children's and academic) literature, taking into account the liberalization of prices.

4. The Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Communications Ministry and Russian Federation Press and Information Ministry, are to devise within a month a program to demonopolize the distribution of newspapers and magazines.

5. Newspapers and magazines founded by supreme organs of state power and administration and the Russian Federation Press and Information Ministry are exempt in 1992 from paying into the budget currency earnings from their main activity.

6. Considering the specific nature of the sector and its social importance and cultural and educational significance, the Russian Federation Press and Information Ministry, in conjunction with the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, is to devise a program and approve the procedure for privatizing subordinate enterprises (particularly booksellers) and institutions. The Russian Federation Communications Ministry, in conjunction with the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, is to determine the principles for the privatization of the "Rospechat" retail network, envisaging the preservation of its basic functions. [Signed]Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 20 February 1992.

Poltoranin Views Decree

PM2502093792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, minister of press and information, by A. Pankratov; place and date not given: "Not a Penny, Then Suddenly the Decree"]

[Text] The situation surrounding the press remains alarming. The other day saw the publication of the Russian Federation presidential decree "On Additional Measures of Legal and Economic Protection for the Periodical Press and State Book Publishing." The decree was prompted by unambiguous assessments both among journalists and among industrialists and publishers. Here is the view of M. Poltoranin, Russian minister of press and information.

[Pankratov] Mikhail Nikiforovich, with the appearance of the decree, the government can be reproached for returning to socialism and retreating from the market strategy of reform.

[Poltoranin] There is nothing in the decree that is antimarket. On the contrary, monopolists are exploiting shortages to dictate their own prices for paper and are even winding down production as print runs fall or certain publications founder.

[Pankratov] But are we not thereby transferring the burden of losses and unprofitability from the press to the timber procurers and paper manufacturers? After all, the price of electricity, fuel, and so forth is going up, while the price of paper will be fixed.

[Poltoranin] You know, we could have taken a different approach—for instance, limiting profitability levels, setting surtaxes on excess profits, etc. We are reckoning on another option—fixed prices, whereby the press will survive and the pulp and paper combines will be profitable. We also need a range of measures to ensure that timber procurers find it profitable to sell timber for paper rather than for stools. If you like, the ideology of the presidential decree is to bring into play, above all, economic levers and a desire to curb the monopolists' temptation to fleece everyone....

[Pankratov] Nonetheless, the mechanism by which the decree will be implemented is still unclear: How will it be possible to mitigate the effect on the budget?

[Poltoranin] At the same time as the decree was issued, Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar was sent a number of proposals on the system of protecting the press. We realize that a considerable amount of money will be needed, but it would be even worse to allow the press and our existing news network to go under. If only from the standpoint of the amount of information available to the population on the progress of economic reform.

[Pankratov] Journalistic circles, however, have started talking about "blacklists" of publications, which are politically disloyal to the current authorities and therefore not covered by the decree.

[Poltoranin] Absurd. The decree gives equal rights to all. Only commercial publications are wholly excluded. I understand opposition publications—they too are part of the information network which has emerged in Russia. So there is no discrimination on political grounds.

[Pankratov] The government has been instructed to draw up a law "On the Professional Rights, Freedoms, and Duties of Press Workers." Just what is this—law on the press mark two?

[Poltoranin] No, the Russian law on the mass media remains in force, but the idea of a new law emerged at a meeting between the chief editors of newspapers and the Russian president. Given the fact that the judiciary is "bogged down," journalists have no protection against administrative tyranny or professional incompetence. Nonetheless, the current law which is actually in force does not take account of many of today's realities. The draft is being drawn up by a group of specialists under the leadership of Professor M. Fedotov, deputy minister for the press.

I think that, together with the law on intellectual property (which will be submitted to parliament soon) these acts of legislation will help press workers to really enter the market and then fight for their place in the sun under the rules of competition, economic expediency, and healthy competition.

[Pankratov] Mikhail Nikiforovich, last Saturday you were appointed deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government by presidential decree....

[Poltoranin] I view this appointment not as enhancing my own personal importance, but as the result of the immense influence exerted on society by the "fourth estate." The president well understands the press' great role in implementing difficult reforms and in creating a democratic state....

Certain deputies and high-ranking officials are still trying, as they did in the past, to silence the press, bang on the table, and so forth. All these are throwbacks to Bolshevism. The fourth estate—the independent mass media—is a new reality....

[Pankratov] But we have not reached the point of complete independence as yet, and that is a reality you can probably agree with....

[Poltoranin] The Ministry of the Press in no way wants to guide anyone or take responsibility for budgetary aid.... We are planning to jointly develop a constructive dialogue, and I think that society's "fourth estate" should talk to both the government and the Supreme Soviet on equal terms. We should have an interest in each other....

Finally, I would like to say that there are many people—from the political opponents of the democratic press to mafia buyers of publications—who are trying to torpedo the current decree. The common task for us and for journalists is to monitor its implementation throughout the chain—from forests to "high-ranking" offices. Whether we like it or not the decree is in force. Tomorrow we intend to work up [prorabotat] its specific provisions.

Decree Provisions Assessed

PM2502111192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Viktor Shirokov article: "The President Has Signed the Decree. Is It to Our Benefit?"]

[Text] Journalists and publishers were waiting for this document, so much so that one desperate editor exclaimed: "The decree must be signed today or never!"

Newspapers had "shrunk," slashed publishing days, and reduced the number of type-pages. Book publishers had "hacked" plans to publish the most necessary literature. Journalism and literature were suffocating catastrophically under the weight of the market economy. And now it has been signed—a decree by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin "On Additional Measures for the Legal and Economic Protection of the Periodical Press and State Book Publications."

We know that it has yet to be subjected to scrupulous analysis and comment, and that there will also be a time of doubts and conflicting interpretations of this document. But the main thing is done—at last, it has appeared! Of course, it is no accident that it has appeared. In his recent television speech B. Yeltsin said more or less the following: A politician who does not understand the importance of the mass media is immature. All credit to the Russian Federation president—in this instance he has shown genuine political maturity and wisdom by pumping "oxygen" into newspaper and journal publications and book printers.

Now, let us turn to the decree's contents. It was issued for the sake of "strengthening the legal and economic bases of the activity of the periodical press and book publication and offering the necessary conditions for publishing socially important press publications during the period of transition to market relations." (Here, admittedly, I cannot resist asking: What is concealed behind the term "socially important," and who will define this importance? Will this concept embrace, for example, our own newspaper with a print run of around 1.5 million copies?)

The decree tasks the Russian Federation Government with elaborating and submitting a draft law "On the Professional Rights, Freedoms, and Obligations of Press Workers."

Furthermore, the government is tasked with including in the state register monopoly enterprises operating on the commodity markets, and enterprises producing paper, card, and printing and publishing equipment. Probably with a view to keeping a closer watch over attempts to unjustifiably inflate prices for their product.

Pulp and paper industry enterprises will have to guarantee at least 70 percent of 1991 delivery levels to newspapers, journals, and publishing houses operating "in line with programs ratified by the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information." In turn, these enterprises must be guaranteed fixed quantities of the necessary raw materials on a priority basis. Fixed prices for this paper and card will be set.

Appropriate quotas and licenses, which will not be operated until the state order is fulfilled, will act as a barrier to the drain of these goods abroad. According to the decree, the Russian Ministry of Finance is obliged to allocate hard currency to purchase paper and cardboard for the publication of textbook, children's, and fine art printed matter. The position of communications services workers should be eased by increasing the charges for postal deliveries and intercity telephone communications. (As long as editorial offices and publishing houses are not to be "fleeced" again—this time by other expenses...)

In the draft 1992 budget, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and Ministry of Finance must envisage appropriate subsidies for periodical publications, children's literature, and textbooks with due account of price liberalization. The relevant departments must elaborate within one month a program to demonopolize periodical press distribution. The latter is particularly important—the successors to the defunct "Soyuzpechat" [Main Administration for the Distribution of Printed Matter] are continuing to "rip off" publications. If an alternative becomes available, maybe they will refrain from looking for funds in editorial and publishing house pockets. "State" publications and those under the wing of the Ministry of Information and the Press will be exempt from making hard currency contributions to the budget. It remains merely for opposition publications to be envious—their foreign correspondents' offices will be hard hit...

Finally, "with due account of the sector's specific features, its social importance, and its cultural and educational function," the Ministry of Information and the Press and the State Property Committee must elaborate a procedure for privatizing the enterprises and institutions under their jurisdiction.

Be that as it may, the long-awaited decree—like a life preserver—will be able to keep the dying newspapers, journals, and publishing houses afloat at least until such time as they themselves are able to stand on their own "market feet."

The decree appeared in good time—now it is up to the government structures. It is to be hoped that they do not dawdle.

Ministry Unable To Execute Press Decree

LD2502153292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1315 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The ministry is not able by itself to ensure the execution of Russian President Yeltsin's decree on additional legal and economic safeguards for the periodical press and state book publishers, said Russian Press and Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin at a meeting held today with newspaper editors in chief. Poltoranin was meeting his colleagues for the first time in his new capacity as deputy prime minister of the Russian Government.

Newspaper chiefs link Mikhail Poltoranin's new appointment to hopes for effective government action to help the press survive. In the middle of the meeting the minister received a telephone call from the Russian president, who supported the journalists' idea of a meeting with the government. The meeting will take place within the next 10 days, and will be used to draft a resolution setting out the terms under which Rospechat [Russian retail newspaper agency] will be turned into a joint-stock entity with investment by the newspapers. A combined transport system might also be set up to handle newspaper distribution. A specific format has been drawn up to regulate the economic relationship with paper producers, printers, and the postal bodies.

The press minister rebutted rumors about a list of publications due to receive favored treatment. In his words, only business and sex publications will not receive government subsidies. The fate of all the others will be decided not by the ministry but by a public council to consist of representatives of the Russian parliament and the mass media.

At the minister's suggestion a working group will also be established to oversee execution of decrees.

Yeltsin Tells Gaydar To Help Newspapers

PM2402163592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report carried as part of feature under the general heading "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA-92: We Have Wonderful Readers!": "Call From Yeltsin"]

[Text] Russian President B. Yeltsin phoned the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial office the morning that the emergency edition of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA appeared [20 February].

"I will sign a decree on aid for the press today."

The government has adopted measures to combat monopolism. The major enterprises, which in the president's words "have gotten their hands on everything and are dictating terms, including in the market for newsprint," have been identified by name. Then he reported that he had spoken to Gaydar and instructed him to give effective assistance to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and TRUD—which was not published that day.

"The fact that subscribers have not received KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is shameful for us," the president noted. And in the end he said that "we will find a way out of this situation."

State Legal Administration 'Causing Alarm'

PM2502135592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Sergey Kornilov report under the "Press Conference" rubric: "A Return to Administrative Criminal Repressions?"]

[Text] At a meeting with representatives of the Russian and foreign press held in the Central Journalists' House, Nikolay Fedorov, Russian Federation minister of justice, communicated his deep concern about some documents that have recently appeared, originating from various constitutional and "paraconstitutional" Russian institutions. These documents, in Fedorov's opinion, indicate the beginning of a sharp about-face in Russia's policy from legality to administrative-criminal repressions.

The minister of justice illustrated his claims using two examples. The first was the draft law on liability for noncompliance with Russian Federation legislation. The draft of this law, in violation of the procedure established by Russian legislation, was submitted for examination by the Supreme Soviet, but it was subsequently withdrawn by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin. However, the authors of the draft have not abandoned the idea of this law, and they intend to resubmit it for examination by the Supreme Soviet. It proposes in particular to "establish criminal liability of up to seven years' deprivation of liberty for acts, in other words action or inaction, committed for any purpose flagrantly contravening the interests of the Russian Federation."

Similar draft documents were circulated as discussion documents in Russia in the 1920's when the Bolsheviks emerged victorious. "Acts contrary to the interests of world revolution or socialist building are punishable by deprivation of liberty and the death sentence at the discretion of the proletarian court." Such an approach in legal language means "corpus delicti with open disposition [otkrytaya dispozitsiya]."

Second example: The appearance of the President's State Legal Administration [PSLA] in the system of Russian organs of power, which is not enshrined in a single legislative act of the Russian Federation, and which contravenes the principle of the separation of powers and even the "stagnant" Brezhnev Constitution, which is currently still in force. The fact that the chief of the PSLA and his deputies come only under the president's jurisdiction, and not under the control of either the Supreme Soviet or the government, is causing alarm.

Even greater alarm is caused by the PSLA's range of powers (it is known that it is headed by Sergey Shakhray)—ranging from showing clemency to citizens sentenced by Russian courts and conferring government awards, military ranks, and class ranks, to interpreting decisions adopted by the president and the government. It is here, in the PSLA, that texts of decrees are prepared and submitted in the name of the president for ratification by the Supreme Soviet, draft laws are signed, and privileges at the level of the former USSR's former Council of Ministers are obtained for the administration's 330 officials.

Nikolay Fedorov also noted that the Ministry of Justice has put forward several drafts of a president's Decree on the Procedure for Preparing Acts of the President and the Government, but the president's entourage does not want the system for adopting decrees to be standardized and is blocking these drafts.

The minister of justice expressed surprise at the apathy of the Russian intelligentsia and the mass media at what he called "legal cynicism."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on Nonpublication

PM2102150592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report by N. Ivanov and A. Oganov]

[Text] [Announcer] It is exactly six months since the day which, in a direct sense, shook not only our country but the whole world. It was on 19 August that the putsch began. On 19 August resolution No. 2 of the State Committee for the State of Emergency on the publication of central newspapers in Moscow city and oblast was signed. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA was among those which were banned. And now, today of all days, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has failed to appear. For different reasons, admittedly, but it is symbolic. As the specialists say, in order to survive nowadays journalists need to be on even better terms than ever with the state. They are obliged to do this not by ideological coercion, as under the Communists, but by the logic of the market, which they championed so much. Although in order to create a democratic state the government ought to have supported the independent press especially.

[Ivanov] This is the first day since the August putsch that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has failed to appear. In the recent past we would have contemplated state subsidies to rectify the situation facing KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which for some reason now costs 70 kopeks instead of 8 kopeks. Journalists were counting on the early appearance of a decree from President Yeltsin curbing the monopolistic ambitions of the paper industry. But today those who get their copies from newsstands and through subscription have seen the first symptoms of an information crisis. The same fate could await IZVESTIYA, TRUD, and other publications, too. At KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA they think that in many ways this situation is reminiscent of the much-lamented attempt to make draconian amendments to the law on the press. Another version, labeled the implementation of market reforms, represents an attempt to stifle the least popular publications. Tomorrow there will be a new edition of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA with a rubric covering things which readers will have missed. Presumably the protest action planned by the press, the "No News Day" involving the refusal to publish any reports on a political theme, will fail for a very mundane reason; the publications themselves are not going to appear.

Paper Decreases Pages 'Until Further Notice'

*PM2402165592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Feb 92 p 1*

[PRAVDA editorial announcement: "A Word to the Readers"]

[Text] Today's PRAVDA is being published on four pages instead of the usual six. Unfortunately, this is how it will be from now on (except for Fridays) until further notice. The effect of monopoly economic pressure is forcing us to do this in order to survive, albeit in "truncated" form. We hope you will understand. Many apologies.

[Signed] PRAVDA Editorial Office.

Response to Armed Forces Day Events Viewed

Deputies Want Inquiry

*OW2402232492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1915 GMT 24 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of people's deputies of the Russian Federation have called for a parliamentary inquiry into the events of February 23, when mass demonstrations on the occasion of Army Day were held in Moscow. The decision to request the inquiry was made at a conference of people's deputies of the Russian Federation called by the parliamentary groups "Smena" (Younger Generation), "Novaya Politika" (New Policy), and "Rossiya" (Russia).

The rally adopted a draft resolution expressing protests against "human rights abuse and unconstitutional actions by the government of Moscow, which decided to disperse the rally ".

Some people's deputies are going to demand live time on television to present their version of actions by Moscow's authorities.

Deputies Issue Statement

*LD2402233592 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Yuriy Rostov] A meeting of people's deputies was held at the Russian Supreme Soviet today to discuss yesterday's events in Moscow. Afterwards, Deputies Aksyuchits, Astafyev, Baburin, Mikhaylov, Pavlov, Sayenko, and Sokolov came to Russian Television. They gave our management a statement which they asked to have read out. Now it's goodbye from me, and over to the continuity announcer. Goodbye.

[Unidentified announcer] A statement on the events in Moscow on 23 February 1992:

On 23 February, a mass meeting devoted to Armed Forces' Day was wrecked by the decision of the government of Moscow and with the connivance of the Russian authorities, in defiance of the Russian Constitution and a decision of the Moscow city soviet. Tens of thousands of people, including many veteran frontline soldiers, who were on their way to honor the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, were met by several layers of cordons manned by the militia and Interior Ministry special units. Subway stations in central Moscow were closed. Streets within the Sadovoye Koltso ring road were blocked with barricades formed of trucks.

A veteran of the armed forces, retired Lieutenant General (Nikolay Denisovich Peskov), died during the clash between the demonstrators and the Interior Ministry special units. Many people were maimed, including women and elderly men.

Foreseeing that the impending clash between the militia and the demonstrators would have serious consequences, a group of people's deputies of Russia and of the Moscow city soviet sought a meeting with Moscow Vice Mayor Luzhkov, but were refused.

The unprecedented scope of the repressive measures gives grounds to suppose that the operation was planned in advance and prepared with thoroughness. Facts are coming to light showing that a similar operation was planned for 19 February, but a clash, which would have been fraught with serious consequences, was averted thanks to the stance of Colonel (Nikitin), deputy chief of the city internal affairs directorate, whose reward for this was to be relieved of responsibility for ensuring order during mass meetings.

In our opinion, the events of 23 February were a deliberate step by the authorities in a chain of political actions leading to the imposition of emergency measures [chrezvychaynyy rezhim] in the country and the suppression of political opposition. The next step could be the dissolution of soviets of people's deputies at all levels. In Moscow, the rayon soviets of people's deputies have already been deprived of their powers, to all intents and purposes, and a number of them have been subjected to attacks by Interior Ministry special units. One result of such a development of events could be the total suppression of all unorthodox views and the establishment of a new, democratic—in inverted commas—form of totalitarianism.

Considering it our duty to defend to the end the remnants of constitutional rule and legality in the Russian Federation, we demand that a special commission of deputies be set up to investigate the causes and circumstances of the dramatic events of 23 February 1992.

[Signed by] Russian Federation People's Deputies Astafyev, Konstantinov, Pavlov, Aksyuchits, Baburin, Mikhaylov, Sokolov, and Isakov.

'Antidemocratic Actions' Protested

LD2402202192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Moscow trade unions are protesting the antidemocratic actions of the Main Administration of Internal Affairs (GUVD) of the city of Moscow on 23 February 1992, Armed Forces Day, which prevented wreaths and flowers from being laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, says a statement by the presidium of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions (MFP) to the Moscow Soviet of People's Deputies and the Moscow government.

The statement was circulated today by the MFP's information center.

Despite the permission that the MFP had received earlier for the laying of wreaths at 1100 by representatives of labor collectives, trade union organizations and war and labor veterans, the entrances to the Aleksandrovskiye Gardens and metro exits to the central part of the city were blocked. Militia Colonel Feklichev, who refused a group of MFP representatives access to the wreath-laying, said that the law enforcement bodies were acting in accordance with an order from GUVD head Murashov. As a result, the attempt by the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions to remember the fallen defenders of the fatherland was virtually ruined.

"The extraordinary measures undertaken by the GUVD, which the situation in the city did not justify, caused a great confrontation. They deprived many Muscovites of the right to pay their respects to those who died defending the motherland's freedom and independence, and gave rise to clashes," the statement says. "Moscow's trade unions consider that those guilty of violating human rights enshrined in the 'Declaration of Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms' adopted by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet on 22 November 1991 should be punished and be made to publicly apologize to all citizens of the city for defiling a nationwide state holiday and for insulting people's honor and dignity."

Kozyrev Highlights Foreign Policy Concept

OW2502113392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [24 February], Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev informed journalists of the cardinal aspects of the Russian Federation's foreign policy. Russia, he said, will make further steps to assert the new political thinking, to settle the remaining disagreements in inter-state relations and to broaden contacts with the CIS members.

Highlighting the new concept, Andrey Kozyrev said that whereas previously the cardinal aspect of the new political thinking was transition from confrontation with the West to cautious partnership, now efforts are being made to turn the latter into relations between allies.

Among the problems still to be tackled is unsettled relations with Japan, said the Russian foreign minister. To begin with, the two states must conclude a bilateral treaty. Russia cannot pursue any East-oriented policy without such a treaty, he said.

The third most important aspect is the establishment of new relations with the CIS members.

(See the Tuesday issue of Diplomatic Panorama for a detailed account of this press conference).

Basic Provisions Outlined

OW2402175792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and other diplomatic correspondents; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The basic provisions of the Russian Federation's foreign policy have been submitted for preliminary discussions to parliamentary committees and commissions. The general concept of the Russian foreign policy has been drafted by Russian diplomats who believe that the Russian Federation's top-priority goal is to safeguard its national interests, above all to offer the population a better living, to shape a dynamic economy, to assert human rights and democratic principles, and to ensure Russia's integration with the world community. "Russia does not consider any state to be its enemy," says the document. "Neither will it use force, except for the purpose of rebuffing aggression. Russia will cardinally reorient its policy towards partnership with the civilized world."

Priority has been given to relations with the nearest neighbors, first of all with the CIS states.

Moreover, now that the danger of military conflict has lessened, the security accent is being shifted from the military to the economic, ecological, energy, demographic, medical and other spheres.

Among the most vitally important targets are those of turning the strategic offensive weapons into a stabilizing factor, broadening dialogue with the U.S. on the creation and joint operation of a global defence system similar to SDI, and eliminating tactical nuclear weapons.

As far as Russia's European policies go, a strong accent will be put on the assertion of the positive bilateral tendencies [as received], first of all the Helsinki process, on cooperation with the centers of integration, such as the EEC and the Council of Europe, and on the Black-Sea and Mediterranean cooperation.

The draft document lays special emphasis on measures to prevent the erosion of the economic contacts with the Eastern European states.

In what concerns relations with Japan, priority should be given to the conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the solution of the territorial problem. Advancement to this goal will be gradual and with due account taken of the Russian Federation's public opinion and economic interests.

Russia intends to make further effort to find a political solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and broaden cooperation with the moderate Middle East regimes and OPEC.

In relations with Africa and Latin America, the main effort will be concentrated on the most promising partners, among them Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Angola, Nigeria and South Africa.

Further on Economic Minister's Briefing

LD2502111192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent V. Perfilyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Perfilyev] Will Russia trade in arms? Will the prices of oil and oil products rise, or remain as before? Are we threatened with unemployment? Andrey Nechayev, the new Russian Economics Minister, answered these and many other questions from Russian and foreign correspondents today. He stated that the Russian Government is considering the option of going over to free prices for oil products at the end of April. It is also planned to free milk prices. However, such a move will not apply to bread. Monetary reform is possible only as a protective measure if, primarily, Ukraine introduces its own currency. [video switches to shot of correspondent addressing Nechayev]

[Begin recording] [Perfilyev] So, 40 days of the reform, which is underway; what are you satisfied with and to what perhaps should attention be paid now to accelerate these reforms?

[A.A. Nechayev, minister of economics of the Russian Federation] We are satisfied with the fact that the increase in prices during recent times has been quite small. I do not mean the leap in prices which occurred in January, but the increase in prices occurring now, in February, which testifies to the fact that, on the whole, the harsh monetary and credit policies of the government are bearing results. We have quite a few examples of price decreases. One of the perhaps not very important but very comforting indicators is the recent fall in the dollar exchange rate.

[Perfilyev] How much does the dollar cost now?

[Nechayev] It now costs up to 65 rubles [R] a dollar for individual cash transactions; on the whole around R70-80 in comparison to R150 previously, as you perhaps recall. I think that we can count on it going down to R50 a dollar in the near future. [end recording]

Deputy Minister on Arms Trade, Foreign Debt

LD2502104692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Boris Krivoshey, and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Asked about arms trade, Petr Aven, Russian first deputy foreign minister, said that the system that existed in the past is changing. Two independent foreign trade associations specializing in arms sales have been established. There are plans to create several other similar structures on the basis of major arms manufacturers. Licenses will continue to be issued by the state, the deputy minister continued. For these aims, in accordance with a decree prepared by the Russian president, a special committee of representatives from some leading ministries headed by the deputy chairman of the government will be established. Petr Aven thinks that this will be a minimally bureaucratic system that will use only the prohibited lists of types of armaments and countries to which arms sales are prohibited. At the same time, UN recommendations on the issue will be fulfilled without fail.

According to Aven, priorities in arms sales are changing in accordance with the changes in political orientation, but there is still no talk today about any cardinal changes that have taken place. This relates to India which, as Petr Aven noted, is our "traditional and long-term partner in military-technical cooperation." Russia has no intentions of changing its attitude on the prospects of this cooperation. Problems that have appeared here recently, according to the deputy minister, are mainly of a financial nature and are connected with unregulated mutual payments and estimates on the size of the debt. Petr Aven is confident that many problems will be solved during a visit to India by Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, which is planned for March-April this year.

Speaking about foreign debt servicing, Aven noted that the situation is complex. As of today not a single former republic which agreed on sharing the debt of the former USSR has transferred its share. Russia is the only exception. As a result, more than 85 percent of the payments today fall on Russia. He added that Ukraine, which withdrew its accounts from Vneshekonombank, is not paying anything at all.

The foreign debt of the former USSR, not counting its debt to CEMA member-countries, stands at $62 billion, Aven said, $20 billion of which is due to be paid this year. Russia simply cannot come up with such a sum. As a result of numerous talks, this amount has been reduced to $8.7 billion.

Speaking about trade and economic relations between Russia and the CIS countries, Petr Aven said that the introduction of national currencies by some Commonwealth states "is not a problem." Nevertheless, he reminded that, according to the last Minsk agreements by the heads of the CIS states, "for some time a single ruble space will remain." "We understand that every state wants to have its own currency, but from the point of view of economic expediency it is better to live with a ruble," he added.

Speaking about the fate of former USSR trade representations abroad, Aven said that the number of personnel will be sharply reduced. At the same time it is planned to create Russian trade houses abroad for protecting the interests of Russian entrepreneurs. These will be self-supporting commercial structures. The first trade houses will appear in France and Austria in the near future, he said.

Some Arms Sales Prohibited

LD2502104992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Our arms sales abroad have gone down by 40 percent. This was announced on 21 February at a news conference held by Petr Aven, chairman of the Russian external economic relations committee. He noted that the committee will prepare lists of arms prohibited from sale. Russia undertakes not to sell arms to hotspots on the planet and where the United Nations prohibits, said Aven. The chairman said that this year the committee plans to submit to the Russian parliament a draft law on military and technological cooperation between Russia and foreign countries.

Trade Principles Viewed

LD2502105792 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Boris Krivoshey, and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Renouncing state monopoly on foreign trade is a key element of Russian foreign trade reforms, Petr Aven, first deputy foreign minister and chairman of the committee for foreign economic ties, told a news conference on Friday.

Foreign trade will now operate on the principle of registration rather than permission, i.e. "each enterprise will be free to buy and sell commodities on the foreign and domestic market," he said.

According to Aven, the Russian Government "wants to give up exports licensing and quoting." He noted that licenses and quotas now cover only raw materials, armaments and some types of chemicals.

The state seeks to stimulate exports of engineering products as a way to reverse the slump in industry and to prevent mass unemployment.

"We now have neither export tariffs, nor export quotas for civil engineering products," he said.

Import tariffs were lifted in the first six months of this year in order to saturate the domestic consumer market.

Social Security, Labor Ministers Hold Briefing

Social Protection, Employment Viewed

PM2402132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Tatyana Khudyakova report: "Poverty Line Not Yet Defined, But 90 Percent of Russia's Population Are Beneath It"]

[Text] A press conference on problems of the population's social protection and the prospects for providing employment in the Russian Federation took place 19 February. It was held by Ella Pamfilova, minister for social security, and Fedor Prokopov, first deputy chairman of the Ministry of Labor and Social Problems Committee for the Population's Employment.

Now there are actually two "shopping baskets" for purposes of calculation. One symbolizes a certain physiological level set at 550 rubles [R] (it is precisely this monthly sum which will stop you from simply dying from hunger). The second one represents the minimum subsistence costs which, according to estimates by various specialists, fluctuates between R1300 and R2000 a month.

For this reason the estimated number of poor people can be different. If you take the first basket as a basis—there are more than 30 million of them, mainly pensioners. But using the second, 90 percent of Russia's population falls below the poverty line at a stroke, as the average Russian's monthly income is double the minimum wage, something around R700.

Some 360,000 people are supplied with free food. As soon as the sources of financing are identified, pensioners will receive monthly compensation of R200 in connection with the price liberalization. All allowances will be increased by R100. Single elderly citizens, having reached the age of 80 years, will receive an extra payment of R228 for care.

The capital for these protective measures will come from the social support fund which has already been formed. The government took on the lion's share of its financing, having set aside R9 billion from the budget for the first quarter. There are R3.5 billion and $17 million from the former party coffers which will be "forthcoming." Government and commercial enterprises are also promising something. There is also a chance that aid of R3-4 billion will be received from the countries of the European Community.

Fedor Prokopov describes the state of the population's employment as noncritical. At the present time some 70,000 people have applied to Russian labor exchanges, of whom 12,000 are already receiving unemployment benefit.

An examination of the dynamics of applications to the exchanges revealed a trend toward declining numbers of vacant positions. Whereas in January last year they amounted to about 900,000, in January 1992 there were already only 570,000. For this reason the number of people who received work was reduced by 25 percent.

A sharp upsurge in the number of jobless people is expected by fall of this year. According to calculations, the ballpark figure will be 10 percent of those in work, in other words approximately 7-8 million people. In reality it may turn out to be somewhat less—about 6 million. Which, you will agree, is also a sizeable figure. All the more so as, according to the conclusions of IMF experts who analyzed the system of contributions which the employment fund is receiving, no more than 3.5 million people will realistically be able to count on unemployment benefit.

In Prokopov's opinion there are two reasons for the growth in unemployment. The first is that workers are unavoidably being laid off, which is the "fault" of the economic reform, the closure of loss-making enterprises, and the more rational organization of labor. The second is the ethnic factor which has already prompted the processes of migration. It may swell the ranks of the unemployed in Russia by at least another 30 percent.

Unemployment 'Rising Sharply'

LD2102175192 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS business correspondent Oleg Deyneko]

[Text] Moscow February 19—The employment situation is not critical in Russia. There were 70 thousand registered unemployed in January 1992. About 12 thousand of them are on the dole. These figures were made public at a press conference by Chairman of the Employment Committee of Russia Fedor Prokopov.

However, according to the general tendency of 1991, the number of the unemployed is rising sharply. In July 1992 after the start of registration, the number of job-seekers was 16 thousand, today it is 69 thousand. As a result of the economic reforms a sharp upsurge of unemployment is expected towards the Autumn of 1992.

A considerable cut in the number of vacancies was noticed during February. Whereas the number of jobs vacant was reported to be 840-940 thousand in 1991, now it stands at a little above 570 thousand. Among the factors contributing to unemployment are national and other conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The nationalist factor may help raise the number of the unemployed in Russia by one third, Fedor Prokopov said.

The existing law regarding distribution of the dole and its period of payment in the conditions of the second half of 1992 may be considered to be too liberal, he said. The funds allocated by the government may not suffice for the jobless, who will register themselves. In the present order of revenue collections for the employment fund, it will be enough to temporarily support 3.5 million people only. There will be no money left for the rest, Prokopov said.

"Our main task today is to form a system of training centres for the unemployed. Tens of such centres will be created, where the jobless will be trained for new specialities according to European programmes," Fedor Prokopov said.

Further on Unemployment

LD2102181192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The first official data on the number of unemployed in the Russian Federation were made public today by Fedor Prokopov, chairman of the government's Employment Committee of Russia.

In January 1992, the figure was 70,000 people, of whom 43,000 were women. Urban dwellers make up 90 percent of the registered unemployed.

Over the past year, 1.5 million people have applied to bodies of the State Employment Service in search of jobs. At the same time, the service had information on 800,000 vacancies.

But now, after that stream of figures, here are the details of a news conference at the Russian Government on the matter of social protection of the population. Our special correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov is at the microphone.

[Osipov] According to the forecasts made by the Employment Committee, there will be a sharp increase in redundancies, and thus of potential unemployed, in the autumn of 1992. The main reasons for the increase in unemployment, according to Fedor Prokopov, are the national conflicts in the former republics of the Union, and growing flow of refugees, the cuts in the armed forces and the falling demand for white-collar workers. It is precisely this category of workers who will find themselves in the lead in terms of numbers unemployed.

[Begin Prokopov recording] We see the following as the most probable course of events: the number of applications to the employment service will be somewhere around 6 million. Last year, the figure was 1.5 million persons. Of these, 6 million, probably about 2 million will claim unemployment benefits. There is a related matter: according to certain information in Tyumen Oblast, there are 342 unemployed but 20,000 vacancies. Can one talk about a sharp increase in unemployment in Russia? The fact of the matter is that we do not expect an even, so to speak, distribution of unemployed throughout the territory of Russia. There will be territories which remain quite calm in this sense but, at the same time, centers of mass unemployment will very probably emerge where the rate may reach 20 percent or even 25 percent. [end recording]

[Osipov] As for the social welfare for the unemployed, the plan is to solve this problem with the help of the unemployed themselves. This idea was also expressed by Fedor Prokopov.

[Begin Prokopov recording] We have another of our ideas which we are going to implement in order to try to assist and develop the services sphere and small-scale, including private, enterprises. We are already holding talks, including with certain foreign partners, on setting up training centers to provide the unemployed with training in small business. That is in order at least to give them the opportunity to gain a basic knowledge in this sphere so that people can independently open their own business. [end recording]

[Osipov] It should be stressed, incidentally, that state policy is aimed at encouraging those employers who create new jobs. The state is going to direct resources precisely toward supporting the entrepreneurial initiative of citizens. And those who are unable to work will not be left out, such as pensioners and the disabled. In spite of a number of difficult problems, the Russian government intends in February-March to pay 200 rubles to pensioners and also 100 rubles to mothers with three of more children, families which have lost their breadwinner, and other categories of citizens. The network of free cafetarias for the poor is also being expanded, and this work is proceeding particularly actively in Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, Samara, and Voronezh Oblasts. Problems with this program are once again related to financing. Even though the republic's social support fund has 13 billion rubles at its disposal, this is not enough for everything. So, as Ella Pamfilova, Minister of Social Protection, stressed, the whole policy in this sphere needs to be changed, and social protection should be made an active and effective means, rather than an outcast of the state. For this purpose, commercial structures need to be attracted to the activity.

Industry Leader on Defense Employment Crisis

OW2402190592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Arkadiy Volskiy, head of the Russian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, told a delegation of U.S. lawmakers and businessmen in Moscow on Sunday [23 February] that, unless the government took emergency measures, the number of unemployed in the country's defense sector, currently estimated at 300,000, might reach the 1.5-million mark by the year's end.

According to Volskiy, the present crisis in the munitions-manufacturing sector results from the fact that government subsidies have reduced over the past two years by 35% and more, and no sufficient funding has been available for the organization of civilian production.

Minister Says Reform's 'Second Phase' To Begin

OW2102224192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Labour and Employment Minister of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Shokhin, has said that the government is going to start the second phase of the economic reform as of April. Among other things it is going to ease the pressure of taxation. Shokhin was speaking in Moscow on Friday [21 February] after a meeting of the trilateral commission (the government, trade unions and businessmen), which discussed the first results of the economic reform.

Shokhin said that he saw the trilateral commission as a consultative body capable of helping the government to deal with economic problems without putting additional strain on the people and to prevent outbreaks of social tension.

The commission will meet next time on February 28.

Acting Deputy Chief of Prices Committee Named

PM2402084492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report from "Official Diary" column]

[Text] By ordinance of the Russian Federation Government, I.I. Gorbachev is appointed acting first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and Finance Prices Committee; pending the appointment of a chairman, he is charged with the duties of forming the said committee.

Yeltsin Meets 'Large Families' Representatives

LD2502041292 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 24 [dateline as received]—President Boris Yeltsin today met representatives of the Association of Russia's Large Families, the presidential press-service reported.

The Association was founded on January 22, 1992. Its activity encompasses 40 cities across the Republic. The main aim of the Association is to provide social protection and support for large families with many children in them, especially during the transition to market relations.

Speakers at the meeting voiced concern over hardships faced by families with three and more children, the drop in the birth rate and an increase in infant mortality and other burning problems.

According to the president of Russia, efforts should be made to boost the prestige of the family. A major role in this respect must be played by the law on the family to be promulgated by the Russian parliament soon. Yeltsin said the law will reflect specific problems of large families.

Communist Party Archives To Be Open to All

LD2202224692 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—The former Soviet Communist Party archives will be reorganised into a central storage of modern documents open to everybody, its director Rem Usikov told ITAR-TASS.

The storage, which is expected to open on February 25, will contain about 30 million entries, including party documents from 1952 to August 1991, minutes of meetings of the Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat, biographical memos, etc.

Usikov said documents from the archives of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will also be kept in storage.

The storage's reading hall will be open for all residents of Russia and other countries, Sergey Mironenko, deputy director, said.

Archive Director on Publishing

LD2202224192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by D. Pugacheva from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The news about selling collections from the CPSU Central Committee central archives to foreign publishing houses has caused real alarm in the media. However, the safe keeping of the documents and scientific work by employees is to be financed somehow. Vladimir Kozlov, director of the Russian archive, explained today that not simply selling information but paying for the intellectual labor of the archive's employees, which amounts to 70-80 percent of the cost of the deal, is under discussion. The right to publish the party documents remains with the Russian archive; that is, joint work is under discussion.

At the same time it was stressed that the center does not have any responsibility for publications on the side. Therefore foreign publications of the Comintern documents and the book "Dialogues of Terror" published in Italy and based on the KGB archives gave rise to many questions. This is the first attempt to use our archives and, it must be said, not a very successful one. The information from the documents of our archives was considerably distorted. [Video shows Kozlov addressing journalists at a news conference]

Deputy Director Cited

LD2502033592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent A. Dadyko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Central Party Archives—now called the Russian Center for Preserving and Researching Documents of Recent History—is today no longer a carefully guarded secret. All manuscripts of Marx and Engels known to date and all Party documents previously marked as classified or for internal use only are now available for study not only by scholars—of whom there are significantly more in the archives' reading rooms today—but also by average citizens, like inquisitive journalists and those searching for scandal. These shots are truly unique. No one apart from the archive curators has ever entered here. Lenin's manuscripts are kept underground at a constant temperature and humidity in an ideally pure atmosphere. Now declassified, these documents could comprise six to eight weighty volumes. What do they include?

[Begin O. Naumov, deputy director of the Center, recording] There are new and interesting facts, all sorts. Indeed, there are some about the Red terror and about the methods used during the civil war and about the deportation of intellectuals. Yes, there are such documents. [end recording]

Oleg Naumov categorically denied inflated rumors in the press about the sale of several million documents abroad. Copies are being sold, the exchange and sale of which is widespread throughout the world.

Center Forecasts 'Party Functionaries' Revenge'

LD2102224392 Moscow TASS in English 2007 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Experts from the RF-policy center presented today at the Russian White House have sent an analytical note to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, expressing fears over the mounting consolidation of forces that were defeated in August, 1991.

In the experts' opinion, the process of "party functionaries' revenge" is developing in Russia and around it with the aim of the restoration and consolidation of the functionaries' totalitarian regime in all the republics of the Commonwealth.

The center experts included people's deputy and chairman of the Political Reform Subcommittee of the Russian Parliament Vladimir Varov and candidates of physical and mathematical sciences Aleksandr Sobyanin and Dmitriy Yuryev.

The experts told correspondents the RF-policy center has been set up to organize and carry out independent information - political research.

"There has been no change of power in August," said Sobyanin. Confirming his words, Varov noted representatives of the "former system" are still working in local and supreme power structures and impeding the reform.

In his words, 21 out of the 77 staffers of the Altay territory's regional administration and 31 out of 58 staffers of the Krasnodar regional administration are representatives of the former party apparatus. In many republican areas, the number of former party apparatchiks keeping power exceeds 70-80 per cent.

"We intend to destroy the illusion of many people that power has passed over to new forces," said Yuryev.

Recommendations Outlined

OW2102225192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "RF-Politika" analytical center warns that Russia's Communist Party nomenklatura is getting ready to make a return in order to restore a totalitarian regime in Russia and other CIS member-states. The center fears that the threat to statehood, the economy, politics and security of Russia's peoples is the worst-ever since WW II.

The "RF-Politika" center was founded last year. Vladimir Varov is its leader.

The center suggests the following measures:

—the removal of underground nomenklatura from the Russian President's apparatus and the dismissal of notorious pro-Communist figures;
—the early replacement of old-time hard-liners locally;
—the personnel renewal of the control department, which has accumulated many former staff of the CPSU CC [Central Committee] and USSR Supreme Soviet;
—a package of tough laws and presidential decrees to abolish old-time nomenklatura and to dismiss at once all former representatives of the CPSU, KGB and members of the apparatus of the USSR President;
—an early constitutional reform carried out in cooperation with the law—makers.

"RF—Politika" experts believe that the act promulgating a new constitution must contain a special item terminating the powers of the corps of law-makers and declaring new elections.

Legality of Yeltsin Decrees To Be Assessed

OW2402205292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation will gather anytime over the next four weeks to probe into President Yeltsin's decision to disband the Communist Party and confiscate its property. The inquiry has been requested by a group of people's deputies of the Russian Federation.

Constitutional Committee Chairman Valeriy Zorkin has already sent a copy of the request to President Yeltsin and asked him to attend the hearings personally or to sent his special envoy. Authoritative sources say Russia's Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray is likely to represent President Yeltsin's interests in court.

The authors of the request doubt whether President Yeltsin's decrees of August 23 1991 suspending the activity of the RSFSR Communist Party, of August 25 1991 on the property of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party and of November 6 1991 on the activity of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party were constitutional. They argue that all of the mentioned presidential decrees run counter to the delimitation of powers in the Russian Federation and the division of areas of competence between the supreme bodies of state government and management of the RSRSR.

'Witnesses' Invited to Session

LD2402215292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] According to the INTERFAX agency, in a month Russia's constitutional court will consider an appeal about the constitutional correctness of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's decree dissolving the CPSU. This appeal has been made by a group of deputies from Russia's parliament and from the former USSR Supreme Soviet. It is planned to invite Vladimir Ivashko, former CPSU deputy general secretary, and Valentin Kuptsov, former first secretary of the Russian Communist Party, as witnesses to the session of the constitutional court.

Justice Ministry Denies Draft Decree Rumors

OW2402210092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Justice Ministry has denied its participation in drafting the President's draft decree to ban former CPSU members from taking senior posts in bodies of government and management. The "POST-FACTUM" news agency claimed that Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov himself was involved in drafting the decree. The authors of the draft are said to have been planning to form a special commission to effect this procedure and to appoint Justice Minister Fedorov as its co-chairman.

The Justice Ministry's public relations service denies any involvement in drafting this or any other such document. [Words indistinct] believes that any attempt to compile such legally incompetent documents are aimed at upsetting accord in society.

Deputies, Some Parties Call for Congress

LD2202202992 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—The leaders of Russian parliament factions Otchizna, the Agrarian Union and the Communists of Russia met with representatives of parties of socialist and communist orientation in the Moscow White House, Tatyana Khabarova, leader of the Moscow Centre of the Bolshevist Platform within the CPSU, told ITAR-TASS.

The main result of the meeting was the adoption of a joint statement in support of a group of USSR people's deputies, who insist on the convocation of an Extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies on March 17.

Another joint statement fully endorses the application, sent to the Constitutional Court of Russia by a group of Russian deputies, about a check-up of the validity of a number of government documents (such as Boris Yeltsin's decrees on a ban on Soviet Communist Party activities, and on a land reform, and the Russian parliament resolution renaming the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic into the Russian Federation).

A group of experts in aid to the legislative work of factions and parties was formed from among participants in the meeting. In addition, it was found necessary to set up a coordinating consultative council "for joint preparation of legislative initiatives and coordinated political actions in defence of the interests of the working people", Khabarova said.

Fatherland Movement Holds Founding Congress

LD2202221392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] The founding congress of the All-Russia Patriotic Movement Fatherland, the backbone of which are moderate servicemen, took place in Moscow today. The core of the organization is a faction in the Russian Parliament called Fatherland. The Movement aims at uniting all Russian patriots to preserve the Russian Federation's integrity, save the national culture, and consolidate historical traditions and love for the homeland.

Aims To Restore 'Soviet Authority'

MK2502092092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Yuliy Lebedev report: "The Union? Communists Find a 'Fatherland.' They Hope To Find the USSR on 17 March"]

[Text] It was mainly "Red patriots" and military men who gathered for the constituent congress of the all-Russian patriotic movement, "Fatherland" ["Otchizna'-']. At the buffet waiting in line for a glass of cranberry juice you could encounter leaders from almost all the communist parties that exist in Russia and many high-ranking CPSU functionaries at the same time. Proletarian internationalism was thus successfully smoothed over by Russian nationalism, and by and large the congress went quite calmly. Zionists were not abused, Gaydar was not called "Beytar" [reference unknown], and even the democrats were denounced in an extremely sluggish way.

Russian deputy General Boris Tarasov, leader of "Fatherland," said that the movement rejects chauvinistic and extremist policies, declared his devotion to general democratic values and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and promised to back the Russian president's actions "if they accord with patriotic duty."

Other delegates' speeches were distinguished by being far more radical and uncompromising. "Perestroyka has cut away all our past, defiled it, and deprived us of a future," Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Coordinating Council of Russian People's Patriotic Forces, said. Viktor Omkin, a deputy from Saratov, told Russian deputies within the "Fatherland" movement to back General Makashov's candidacy at the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies for the post of head of state. Perhaps the most resolute was the former Kashirskiy [meaning unknown] priest Konstantin Vasilyev, who introduced himself to trustful communists as "Archbishop Lazarus." Brandishing a cross, he immediately moved to action: "How many intelligent people we have here! Can we really fail to take power?.." The hall was flattered and responded with thunderous applause. Then "Archbishop Lazarus" praised General Makashov and the Russian Party led by Korchagin, and cursed the "Krasnaya Zvezda" Printing House that prints YEVREYSKAYA GAZETA [Jewish Newspaper].

The congress presidium did not like such heated appeals very much and General Tarasov publicly branded them "provocation and ultrarevolutionary talk." Most subsequent speakers also began their speech by dissociating themselves from the "father's" appeals.

"We must act strictly constitutionally," Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Russian Communist Workers Party, said and he suggested his action plan: All Union deputies are to gather in Moscow by 17 March. Some 5,000-7,000 "Trudovaya Rossiya" ["Labor Russia" '] activists are to form a "human corridor" to the Kremlin, where the Sixth Congress of USSR People's Deputies is to open and restore legitimate Soviet authority.

"Our action must be such as to make the people in the Kremlin quake at the knees," General Albert Makashov, the communist candidate for the post of head of state, explained in his speech.

Thus the course of the congress indicates —as does the fact that Anpilov and Makashov are members of the "Fatherland" elected leadership—that it is quite logical to expect the movement to most likely side with the communist rather than the patriotic camp.

At present its forces are not that sizable. No more than 1,000 members and eight deputies in the Russian parliament. However, in the near future the "Red Patriots" will be able to act as a good "agent for influence" for forces in the patriotic camp and also among the military.

Popov Airs Democratic Reform Movement Goals

PM2102124992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Galina Mashtakova "Commentary": "Metamorphoses Within the Movement"]

[Text] As they were still making their way to the Nizhniy Novgorod Kremlin, where the constituent congress of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms [RDRM] had opened, journalists remarked, not without irony, that for some reason the granite statue of Kozma Minin standing there lacked the traditional figure of Pozharskiy [the two principal figures in raising forces to oppose Polish intervention in early 17th century]. He looked alone, there was no denying.

Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov, without his usual associates—Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Volskiy, Shatalin, Sobchak, and Rutskoy—looked equally alone at the RMDF congress. The analogy is not, by the way, fortuitous, since in his program address Gavriil Popov acknowledged that he is inspired by Kozma Minin's feat in saving Russia. And Minin's profession was appropriate too—a merchant, or entrepreneur in today's terms. That is to say, he represented precisely that "constructive kernel" of democratic transformations toward which the new movement is geared.

The fact that the mayor of Moscow personally heads the RDRM—another highly necessary structure for Russians—is no surprise to those who have followed the development of events in the Movement for Democratic Reforms [DRM] since July 1991. Gavriil Popov's dream of creating a "new type of party," which he had nurtured since the time of the conference of the Moscow Regional Section of the DRM, had merely been realized. The fate of the so-called "international" DRM, which arose when the Soviet Union still existed, was decided without prior arrangement. But I think that there are no, or almost no, people aggrieved by this. The idea of creating a nomenklatura party elite in a democratic movement was bound to founder sooner or later—an artificially created organism is viable only in science fiction.

For very different reasons, at best only three of the former seven DRM cochairmen remain as of today. According to verified information, Aleksandr Yakovlev and Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy will continue their political careers in the Gorbachev Foundation (is is known that Shostakovskiy heads the Sociology Center there); Eduard Shevardnadze continues to head his own association and, according to unverified information, intends to return to Georgian politics. Arkadiy Volskiy, who has not to date troubled himself with actual leadership, is certainly not interested now in financing the movement via his science and industry complex. The fate of the rest can only be guessed at: Most likely Stanislav Shatalin along with the Reform Foundation will also smoothly merge with the Gorbachev Foundation, while Anatoliy Sobchak is intending, it seems, to continue the ascent of his political career up the ladder of state—only time will tell which precise rung lies in store for him. They are engaged in affairs—each with his own affairs. And therefore the mantle of leadership in the RDRM passed to Popov without a struggle. And, clearly, to the right man. At the congress Gavriil Kharitonovich stressed that there are times when cochairmen are needed, but there are also times (that is to say, the time is nigh) when it is necessary to get down to work...

This was the response to Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, leader of the Republican Party, who announced his party's resignation from the new-fledged movement and his disagreement with one-man leadership of the RDRM. The decision of Aleksandr Rutskoy's comrades-in-arms to examine the prevailing situation in the DRM at the next session of the Free Russia People's Party Central Committee (incidentally, its faction at the congress was the largest) made no impression on Popov either. His opinion remained the same: The RDRM is a movement, that is, a coalition of different parties and political forces.

Incidentally, the logic of the program address by the RDRM leader contained a set of mutually exclusive theses. Urging the consolidation of Russian social forces, he stated the need to create an administrative system of a special transitional type to dismantle the state economy and make the transition to the market. "Either you create a command-based system, or social development cannot be kept within normal bounds... That is the very bitter truth," Popov stressed, "but the truth it is." Undoubtedly therefore the RDRM's attitude to representative power is expressed in the following formula: "Clear limitation of the functions of representative organs to precisely the sphere of lawmaking and resolute removal of those organs from the executive sphere." Popov said the movement's prime slogan was "earliest new elections to of all representative organs of power—from top to bottom." On can only guess at how this squares with the call that "We should live in a rule-of-law state!" Incidentally, the question of the rule-of-law state was also described as central in the context of discussion of the need to adopt a new Russian Constitution. "Once again the Supreme Soviet has decided that a new constitution is not necessary for the upcoming Congress of People's Deputies," and therefore "the movement should raise aloft the banner of a new Russian Constitution and organize a campaign around it." In the RDRM leader's opinion, the Russian parliament is deliberately ignoring constitutional initiatives, and it is necessary to start collecting signatures for a nationwide referendum on this score. And whereas before he merely dropped transparent hints regarding the inadequacy of the present Russian Supreme Soviet and issued warnings to it, here it was openly stated that it will be necessary for parliament "to be removed from further activity..." if it does not show goodwill. And although the RDRM does not set such "removal" as a program aim, it does regard it as a likely prospect...

Ex-Press Secretary To Set Up 'Nonparty' Bloc

PM2402151192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Own information" report under the "From Our Correspondents and World Agencies" rubric: "Voshchanov Goes Into Politics"]

[Text] Pavel Voshchanov, who has tendered his resignation from the post of press secretary to the Russian president, intends to set up a nonparty electoral bloc—"New Democratic Forces."

The bloc's aim is to prepare for future parliamentary and presidential elections. As P. Voshchanov declared, "our aim is the accession to power in the republic of new persons unconnected with the former party nomenklatura. We are opposed to the red dictatorship being replaced by any other one."

Parties Appeal to Yeltsin Over Power Base

LD2102235892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0530 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] We have received the text of an appeal from a number of democratically oriented political parties to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, and right now we want to acquaint you with the contents of this document. It notes that political parties and movements in the Russian Federation that came about back in the period of absolute power of the totalitarian regime have continued to be be deprived of the opportunity to function normally and to fulfil the tasks that stand before them. They are not being given premises, means of communication, printing capacities, conditions for holding congresses, and for other political measures on a republican scale. In essence they have also been deprived on a permanent basis of the opportunity of using the mass news media. A similar situation has come about in oblasts, krays, and republics.

It is obviously an advantage to somebody, says the document, to set party structures that are pretty well ramified throughout the whole country against the president of Russia; to artificially put the brakes on the practical implementation of the political agreement signed by the president and party leaders; and finally, to cause a split among democrats, pushing us aside into opposition.

By way of information we report, says the document, that back in January this year, with the highest executive power under your command and the leadership of the procuracy, principled accord was reached on giving parties and movements the building of the former USSR Procuracy. More than that, the Russian Federation State Committee on Managing State Property issued instructions, according to which the aforementioned building was handed over to the parties. Despite this the Russian Federation Procuracy moved in to the building. The Cabinet of Ministers agreed that this had taken place unlawfully, but it offered parties the building of Russia's Procuracy, which is not suitable by any means for these aims.

In this way more than 20 political parties and movements have found themselves deceived by the government's highest officials. In expressing a sharp protest over the incorrect attitude to us, we earnestly request your personal intervention and instructions to be given to hand over the building of the former USSR Procuracy in order that it may become the House of Political Parties of the Russian Federation, says the statement.

We request that an urgent meeting be held with party representatives to solve the problems that have arisen within the framework of the political agreement concluded between us. This document, which a number of political parties have sent to Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, has been signed by leaders of parties and dated 17 February this year.

Russia's Concept of Science Strategy Unveiled

LD2102173992 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] A concept of scientific and technological policy has been prepared in Russia for the first time, Academician Anatoliy Rakitov, adviser to the president of the Russian Federation for scientific and technological policy and the introduction of information technologies, told ITAR-TASS today.

The strategy was endorsed by the president and the government. It is, apparently, precisely on the strength of this document that the Russian authorities will build their relations with scientists in the near future.

"To begin with, it must be pointed out that the state gives up the right to manage science. A system of state support is needed. A ministry of science and other agencies will act as customers on behalf of the state and will make payments from state budget funds", Rakitov said. The stimulation of direct scientific innovations will be a fundamentally new aspect of science policy.

As regards specific actions in the near future, Rakitov mentioned the establishment of a system for the legal protection of scientists—the adoption of laws on intellectual property, copyright, and education. The research-and-development achievements of the defence industry are expected to be utilised on a larger scale for civilian needs, primarily in the service sector, he said.

Supreme Soviet

Shaposhnikov, Kozyrev on U.S. Sub, Turkish Army

PM2402165792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "All Quiet on the Border, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and Andrey Kozyrev State. However, the Marshal Believes That the Americans Violated Russia's Border and the Turkish Army Has Changed Its Maneuvers"]

[Text] Reports on the collision between the Russian and U.S. submarines and on the concentration of Turkish troops near the Armenian border came one after the other, as though deliberately. Of course, this coincidence was bound to cause a certain alarm in society. Is it a coincidence or are the predictions of the right coming true and Russia is beginning to reap the bitter fruits of its peace initiatives! In the Russian parliament on the evening of 20 February, Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev tried to clarify these questions.

On the incident in the Barents Sea the official version has been confirmed, namely that the submarines' collision was due to a difference between the Russian and U.S. approaches toward defining the boundary of territorial waters. The United States has disagreements of this kind not only with Russia but also Canada and other states too. Talks will be held about this for the first time since 1990. The incident was discussed in detail with U.S. Secretary of State Baker during his recent visit to Moscow and the appropriate oral and written statements have been given to the U.S. side.

Apart from the official version, however, there were interesting implications in the reports that were given. For example, Marshal Shaposhnikov stated that as a Russian citizen he believes that the Americans violated the border. Furthermore, the area where the collision occurred is essentially the Northern Fleet's training ground, and the Americans, who know that perfectly well of course, have no business being there. He also confirmed that as a result of the reduction in the number of submarines on combat patrol, the correlation between these types of armament in the world's oceans today is not in Russia's favor. However, it was stressed at the same time that the reduction was carried out on the initiative of M. Gorbachev, not B. Yeltsin.

At the same time, Ye. Shaposhnikov—quite reasonably I think—countered suggestions that the Russian president was precipitate in calling the Americans allies. Briefly, the gist of this part of his speech may be summarized as follows: Relations between states can develop for better or for worse, but military departments will always study one another; they were created to make life difficult for their counterpart. "I do not want to talk in detail about where our submarines are!" the marshal stated, hastening to add that they are not violating U.S. borders, of course. He also reported that this is the first case of the violation of the former USSR's state border by a U.S. warship in recent years.

At this point the commander in chief was unexpectedly let down by the foreign minister, who had come to parliament late, had not heard the marshal's speech, and reported that such incidents had occurred before but had not been publicized. The minister said that the agreement with James Baker to publicize the incident in the Barents Sea was unprecedented. This is a symbol of trust and cooperation, he said.

It is an ill wind, as they say. The fact that the U.S. submarine suffered more than the Russian may perhaps be slight comfort to those deputies who asked the commander in chief in all seriousness why the border violator was not sunk.

At the same time, Shaposhnikov's questions on the submarine collision brought to mind the fact that some parliamentarians are interested not so much in clarification of the details of the accident as in the opportunity to trip the marshal up. The commander in chief, as we have seen, proved tougher than the civilians even in debating tactics. I think it appropriate to cite his reply to a question from Deputy Sergey Baburin: Can the Army at present be a stabilizing force which will revive the Union? "You want to make me issue some kind of ultimatum to the presidents, who have been elected by the peoples. If I do that I will consequently be issuing an ultimatum to the people, but these people do not maintain the Army so that the latter can make claims on and issue ultimatums to its peoples."

The discussion relating to maneuvers by the Turkish third field army near the Armenian border was more specific. Both the commander in chief and the foreign minister repeated the official version, which talks merely of planned exercises in which the number of participating servicemen—7,000—does not oblige the Turkish side to give its neighbors prior notification. At the same time, the leaders of the military and foreign policy departments did not actually hide the fact that the Turkish military's actions were due to the situation developing in Nagorno-Karabakh. Marshal Shaposhnikov noted that the Turkish troops' exercises were not like those held earlier. In turn, Andrey Kozyrev informed deputies that the Russian Embassy in Ankara has asked the Turkish leadership to show caution in connection with the aggravation of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The Turkish side, the minister said, greeted the request with understanding.

From Ye. Shaposhnikov's speech it may be concluded that the Turkish military men and politicians are primarily alarmed by something which alarms the commander in chief himself—to be precise, Azerbaijan's attempts to create its own army on the basis of the Transcaucasus Military District's 4th Army. This, in turn, is prompting Armenia to create its own army based on the Transcaucasus Military District's 7th Army. Thus a local conflict may easily develop into a large war, as Turkey has evidently hinted to its neighbors in such a distinctive but comprehensible way.

Ye. Shaposhnikov rejected the Azerbaijani leaders' claims that servicemen of the CIS Joint Armed Forces are participating in combat actions on Armenia's side. "Every day Mutalibov calls me and says that several of our tanks are storming some Azerbaijani village, so I check it out and find it is unconfirmed. He himself is using 'hail' rocket launchers [ustanovki 'grad'], which are banned by international conventions." In the commander in chief's words, the reports that 11 Russian soldiers have died are disinformation. He also commented on the television report the day before on Russian deserters in Baku, a report connected with the story that the 366th motorized rifle division stationed in Stepanakert (Khankendi) is fighting against the Azerbaijanis. Shaposhnikov stated that he decided to withdraw the regiment from Nagorno-Karabakh after the withdrawal of the internal troops there. However, the unit had a shortage of driver mechanics and therefore servicemen had to be drafted in from Nakhichevan. That is why several of these young soldiers had decided that they were being made to fight and they deserted. The fate of the regiment itself remains unclear. In Shaposhnikov's words, representatives of the local population have stated that if the regiment does leave it will be over their dead bodies—women and children will lie down in front of the tanks.

As a result the Russian parliament supported the initiative of Marshal Shaposhnikov, who, as is well known, has sent a memorandum to the CIS heads of state. The memorandum proposes that they pool their efforts to resolve the conflict by political means, refrain from creating their own armed forces, and form a special peacekeeping contingent subordinate to the CIS Council of Heads of State. Furthermore, it is possible that the marshal's initiative may prove unnecessary because the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks in Moscow on 20 February, according to Andrey Kozyrev, give grounds for some optimism.

As for the inviolability of our borders, there will probably be a detailed discussion of this in parliament during the discussion of Russia's military policy. It is just a shame that the public, which henceforth has the opportunity to learn about collisions between U.S. and Russian submarines, will learn little about these debates. It has been decided in advance that the hearings will be held in closed session.

'Soviet of Nationalities' Chairman Interviewed

PM2402110192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Feb 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Nationalities, by Yevgeniy

Sorokin; place and date not given: "Where Are You Going, Rus? There Is No Reply"]

[Text] The problems of forming the CIS have naturally "pushed" the Russian clashes connected with the national-state system into the backround temporarily. Not everything here is simple, and considerable effort, patience, and state wisdom is required for the fate of the USSR not to overtake the Russian Federation. PRAVDA's parliamentary observer discusses these problems with R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Nationalities.

[Sorokin] Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich, since the collapse of the USSR and the start of forming the CIS, some aspects of Russia's national-state structure are acquiring a very alarming coloring. The former autonomous bodies are increasingly frequently expressing themselves for what is almost complete state independence. The role of the Russian center is becoming not a leading one but a coordinating one. Will that not lead to the collapse of Russia itself?

[Abdulatipov] It would be very unethical to say now that I predicted this and warned of it, but at the same time, since the first Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies I have had to say that perhaps 15-20 percent of the republics, krays, and oblasts are joined to Russian structures. All the other regions are joined to union structures, whether we want it or not. Like no other republic, Russia was "woven" into the union structure. So the collapse of the Union, the start of which I warned about at the first congress, has automatically moved to the Russian Federation.

A politician who does not foresee, who is guided only by intuition and immediate considerations, is obliged to put everything into his policy except brains. I do not want to speak of "brainless policy" but nonetheless in politics the main instrument is the head. Yet many of us engage in politics mongering, in political populism. M.S. Gorbachev, who was perhaps not a bad man, included everything in his policy except his head: sympathies, feelings, emotions. He said that we could not live without each other, that his ancestors carry in them the blood of several peoples, etc., and unfortunately this time-serving, inconsistent, and weak-willed policy has very great success under the conditions of our Russian reality. It is very understandable and comprehensible because being of a populist nature, it never affects or encroaches on anyone, nor can it ever help anyone. It is an irrational short-sighted policy.

That is why we must renounce such approaches and urgently investigate mutual relations inside the Russian Federation. These relations should have been consolidated a year or 18 months ago, when all the Russian republics were prepared to sign a federative treaty. We would have reinforced federative relations back then.

I recently met with D. Dudayev. I said to him: You have traveled an anticonstitutional path, etc., and he replied: We never delegated any powers to Russia; show us the relevant document. As for the Constitution, you in Moscow wrote it, you observe it. In brief, we have left to our name, so to speak, no levers for normal conversation. The "purely" constitutional option for a federation is not accepted by people. So it was only one question—the separation of powers—that we made the topic of the talk with its subsequent inclusion in the Constitution.

In the approaches toward Russia's national-state structure, two extreme opposite positions now merge. The first is the unitary approach whose aim is to belittle the role of the federation's republics and to guide all processes from Moscow. The second trend is to leave Russia and become an independent subject of the former USSR and present CIS.

It is because of these extremes that to this day there is no precise instrument in Russia for regulating federative relations. It cost R. Khasbulatov considerable effort and political resourcefulness to get representatives of these extreme viewpoints to sit down at the conference table, but the fate of the treaty was in the balance simply because of a misunderstanding. The point is that the parliament Presidium adopted the treaty option issued to the localities for agreement, but that step was seen there as pressure, of which in actual fact there was not so much as a trace. In brief, we now have to behave cautiously and delicately with the regions and not impose our will on them.

There is the other side of the coin. We sometimes keep what we should not keep. The functions of defense, foreign policy activity, etc. should be concentrated in the center, but why do we need to control every step taken by a kray or oblast, still less by a republic? The Russian Federation as a whole only stands to lose by that. On the other hand, federal organs under the conditions of reform free themselves of dozens of functions which could be performed by organs of management locally, but that is what many people in fact fear.

In a number of republics presidential elections have been held. Many people were angry: Why did they not ask the center for permission? The center replied entirely reasonably: The Union and Russia elected presidents and so did the CIS states, but no one can say what the structure of executive power in the Russian Federation republics should be. So they must seek their own options. Back when they elected the Russian president, I warned that it was essential urgently to resolve that question at all levels of executive power. At the time they did not listen, and now after the fight they are brandishing their fists.

[Sorokin] In Russia, executive power in its precise legal norms is virtually absent in vertical terms? Is that not because locally, following the example given from above, incidentally, a process of "powermaking" is under way?

[Abdulatipov] It has long been known that any imperfection of the law, even in trivia, leads to serious contradictions among the power structures below and and above. As soon as a number of republics announced presidential elections our in many respects talented

Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray immediately ran up with a draft resolution with calls to "ban" and "repeal." I had to oppose that decision. The presidium collected all representatives of the Supreme Soviets and together, with the aid of Sergey Mikhaylovich, we elaborated a mechanism of executive power, linking it to the presidential structures.

That is, I want to say that in some respects we are repeating M. Gorbachev's gravest error: We are constantly late. For instance, my native Dagestan is a relatively peaceful republic, but around it, all the regions are arming themselves—Ossetia, Checheno-Ingushetia, Georgia. What are the Dagestan people to do? Why to this day has neither the minister of internal affairs nor the president given guarantees of Dagestan's security? How will they react if suddenly they begin to form a national guard there too? It is not only executive power but also legislative power that is late. Sometimes the Supreme Soviet adopts laws after events rather than anticipating them. Forgive me, but for now that is too great a luxury.

[Sorokin] You fight openly for the transfer of many powers to the regions, but it was precisely with that that the collapse of the Union began. You recall that the first step was taken when the Baltic republics received economic independence. How it all ended and what in fact they were all seeking is already clear. I fear it is a case not of aspiring to independence but of the desire of a number of local leaders to make themselves absolute apanage princes, bays, and khans. In Ostap Bender's definition, a bay is "a bad man."

[Abdulatipov] I pay tribute to the fact that in this situation you have not yet lost your sense of humor. Unfortunately, you have hit the mark: That element is also present, but the majority of leaders seek to coordinate actions with the center. It should be strong primarily in implementing a correct program of reforms supported locally and geared to a period of 10-20 years. The federal organs should act as the coordinator and guarantor of mutual relations between the subjects of the federation: economic, political, and other relations. The delegation of powers should come from the republics, krays, and oblasts.

Why was this formula not successfully implemented in the Union? Because the union center made as many concessions on this plane as the republics won, and all the time the union center was going backward. That is why we must anticipate by at least one parameter the republics' possible actions, perhaps even in some respect encroaching on general federal interests for the sake of preserving the federation. Moscow is not bold enough to embark on that option, nor does it have a reserve of stability to do this.

I am not an economist, but if the people implementing the reform have been unable even to calculate the necessary amount of money because of which the payment of pensions and wages is being delayed, then will these "fathers of reform" have many supporters among people? Our government, even in such trifles, has been five paces behind the man in the street, who stocked up against "indigent socialism" 500 days ahead of time. All this can only have one definition: a just in case policy. It can be seen anywhere. This policy is pursuing us and could push the people to more than one more tragedy because it is "policy that is groping its way."

Take the CIS. Not a single question, from artificial leather boots for soldiers to oil stocks and nuclear weapons, has been worked out. There is not a single option for withdrawing from possible conflict situations. Instead of political expediency there are political emotions everywhere.

We are living in some topsy-turvy world. I visited Yaroslavl recently. The church there is in conflict with museum workers over the return of property. Imagine: Instead of saying thank you to these devotees who for decades for 120 rubles a month have kept the church relics safe and unharmed, the local hierarchy is prepared almost to sue them, and indeed the state must return a lot to the church without causing damage to national assets. That is only a particular case, an example, but it characterizes our entire reality in which mutual recriminations, the sharing of pennies, and suspicion have come to the fore instead of coordination and joint solutions of problems—for people and not for departments.

With every passing day we are politicizng society, forgetting that a politicized society cannot implement a single reform because problems of the purely political struggle will come to the fore.

When you talk with the local leaders, it emerges that 90 percent of problems are connected with the separation of powers at the level of the national elites. The entire interethnic struggle is developing below, and the upper mafia clans are eating up the chestnuts extracted from the fire by other people: They are sharing among themselves the ministerial portfolios, seats, and lucrative posts. An example of this is the Karabakh problem. The war was launched by the mafia clans of Azerbaijan and Armenia, but it is being waged by the two peoples. In general terms, the nationalities question as such does not exist—all peoples have the same problems. The nationalities question arises, however, as soon as there is question of sharing benefits, privileges, power, and "feeding troughs." Here the truly vital problems of saving ethnic groups and their unique cultures and traditions and habitat are again forgotten, being overlooked.

For instance, in Dagestan recently they spent a long and tedious time distributing portfolios at a parliament session, but tell me did the ordinary Dagestani gain anything from this? There have always been plenty of bosses in Dagestan. On the other hand, no one thinks of the course and consequences of the liberalization of prices and the privatization of state property or of the protection of badly off strata of the population. Instead one person leads his mob out onto the square, another brings the women, yet another brings the students. As long as the people fail to understand that they are being used like pawns in a dirty political struggle that is alien to them, then "nationalities questions" will arise. The most terrible thing is that the mafia structures, rooted in the former soviet and party organs, are beginning to determine present policy locally. Here they want their actions to have no connecting elements and for there to be no control over them. Hence such a passionate wish for complete independence, counter sometimes not only to the frame of mind of millions of people but also to their prosperity.

[Sorokin] The most interesting thing is that these leaders do not want to be responsible for anything. Just as formerly the republics blamed the union center for everything, today representatives of the regions and republics blame the federal organs for all their problems.

[Abdulatipov] Alas, that does happen. The universal lack of responsibility has become like AIDS, destroying the social organism. A man can destroy a state without bearing any responsibility for doing so. A leader can destroy a sector and retire on pension with honor. What is the main feature of U.S. politics? It is pursued not for the sake of a person's own life, because they have an affluent life there. In our country scarcely has a politician come to power before he starts to work for himself. In our country lists of the richest people have even appeared, which for some reason have included representatives of official organs of power and, moreover, in such a brief period. Perhaps this is an artificial problem but there is a proportion of truth here. The truth which is not fashionable today.

[Sorokin] Incidentally, you mentioned the United States. Yet after all the federal government there does not tolerate a single step by the state authorities if it encroaches on the rights of the central organ. In my opinion the opposite process is taking place in our country: Less and less account is being taken of Moscow.

[Abdulatipov] Yes, in the United States not a single state will make a decision which encroaches on the rights of a federal organ. Yet not a single federal organ will make a decision which encroaches on the rights of a state within the framework of its powers because the constitutional court will immediately concern itself with such decisions. In our country there is an absence of political culture primarily in the supreme echelon of power. The stereotype of the union center is automatically transferred to the Russian center. That must be taken into account. Not a single Russian Federation ministry is essentially a federal ministry except perhaps for the Ministry of Education. There are not even the same orientations.

Perhaps it is better to go too far in the sense of some concessions to the regions than to overdo it in terms of leadership over them. A second point: We speak of federative Russian organs. In the United States just one state has only to start to lag behind in its socioeconomic development for it to be immediately given aid at federal level, but I have been struggling for two years for the equalization of the republics in their initial potential for transferring to the market. For instance, the Tuva Republic ranks 75th, Checheno-Ingushetia ranks 71st, etc., but no one is giving them any aid. So what can we expect in response? The republics can only pin their hopes on themselves, can only pin their hopes on the local princelings who come to power there and promise manna from heaven. That is why the politicized masses are becoming the victims of political games. Particularly now. The local princelings have gotten out of control. They do not have to do as anyone says. The protection of the rights of the individual and the national minorities is a matter for not only regional but also federal organs. Even primarily federal organs.

A Dagestani historian wrote: If the Russian Czar had come to Dagestan and had let everyone see him shaking a mountain dweller's hand as an equal, there would not have been the 30-year war with the mountain dwellers. Instead the Czar sent troops. The mountain dwellers and the Russians both lost out. That is it is a case of equal, respectful relations between republics, krays, and oblasts and the federal organs. That is the main condition for building a healthy rule-of-law state.

It was 18 months ago that all subjects of the federation unanimously expressed themselves in favor of signing a federative treaty. A small group of deputies from the constitutional commission opposed this, preventing B. Yeltsin from orienting himself correctly, but where might that happen again? Finally, who will create whom—will the subjects create the federation or the other way round? After that how is it possible to blame the republics and regions of cooperating poorly with the federal organs?

[Sorokin] When, nevertheless, can we expect a federative treaty to be signed?

[Abdulatipov] After the putsch, approximately at the end of August, the main demand of the republics—to sign the Union Treaty independently—receded to the background. At the time I signed a memorandum in which, considering the given situation, I suggested that a federative treaty be signed urgently. Instead we began to export revolution from the "White House" to the republics. As a result we received leaders who came to power by making cunning use of the nationalist card. Politics is above all using the moment, the opportunity. That moment was let go then.

Of course, now we are having to make up for everything. To save the integrity of the federation, for the sake of the independence of its subjects, to elevate the honor and dignity of its peoples! Work on the treaty is under way. I think that it will be signed in the next few months. It is simply dangerous to keep waiting. Without that document the fate of the Union could overtake Russia. Only by normalizing federative relations is it possible to implement the entire constitutional reform of the national-state structure.

Resolution Changes Name of Moscow World Service

LD2302204892 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian 1225 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, in its resolution of 20 January this year, transferred the Radio Moscow World Service to the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. It gave Moscow World Service the name Voice of Russia [Golos Rossii].

Our radio station will continue to be located at the old address: 25 Pyatnitskaya St, 113326, Moscow, Russia. Our telephone number remains the same: 2336868.

Understandably, considerable changes in our frequencies and program schedules will take place. From 29 March, when Russia switches to summer time, new signature tunes and verbal signons for Golos Rossii will appear. Until then, however, we will continue working according to our old schedule.

This is all I can tell you so far.

'Draft Law on Mineral Resources' Adopted

LD2102224992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1820 GMT on 21 February broadcasts a 31-minute recording of today's Russian Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow.

The recording begins with Deputy Sergeyev presenting a second reading of the draft law on mineral resources. He proposes to adopt the draft as a basis. Following Sergeyev's presentation the voting is carried out and the draft law is adopted. Sergeyev and the other deputies then go on to discuss and vote on amendments.

Following discussion of the amendments voting on the draft law as a whole is carried out. The draft is adopted.

At 1832 GMT Deputy Muravyev from an investigating commission speaks about the case of the militia storming the Oktyabrskiy Rayon Soviet in Moscow recently. A decision, which is unspecified, is adopted on this issue.

Deputy Shumeyko then presents draft legal documents aimed at reinforcing the presidential decree on combating monopolism in production. Questions to Shumeyko follow. After the questions voting is carried out and the documents are adopted.

At a recording of the evening session at 1850 GMT, a law on security is discussed and adopted.

The announcer states that the session will resume work in a week. At this point the recording ends.

Further on Draft Law

LD2202095492 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 21 Feb 91

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] The Russian parliament today passed the law on minerals. Under this law, subjects of entrepreneurial activity, including legal persons and citizens of any country, may become mineral users in Russia, provided they have obtained a licence and regardless of the form of ownership.

Bodies of the state geological inspection system are to be in control over the rational use and protection of Russia's mineral wealth.

Money paid for the use of minerals, the sea economic zone, the continental shelf and inland waters of the Russian Federation will be distributed as follows: 30 percent will go to replenish local budgets, 30 percent the budgets of republics, territories and regions within the Federation, and 40 percent will go to the federal budget.

Control of Security, Intelligence Asserted

LD2102165692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1604 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By TASS-ITAR correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (TASS)—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has adopted a resolution on parliamentary control of the activities of the bodies of state security and external intelligence. This was done today at a joint meeting of the chambers in connection with a need, as the document puts it, "for a serious analysis and check-up of the bodies of state security and external intelligence of the Russian Federation, on the part of the parliament".

It is known that the procurator's office investigation, the parliamentary commissions and parliamentary hearings on the causes and consequences of the August putsch have shown that leaders of the highest level of the USSR KGB, the activities of which were outside the control of representative power bodies for a number of years, were at the center of the anticonstitutional plot. The Supreme Soviet is going to control planning and implementation of operations, the employment policy, the budget and its spending, the adherence to human rights in activities of the state security services and of external intelligence. A Supreme Soviet committee on defense and security and a Supreme Soviet plenipotentiary commission on control of the security services establishment and the law enforcement organs will have control functions over the activities of state security organs and external intelligence.

The president of the Russian Federation is advised to refrain from any further reorganizations of state security organs and external intelligence until the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet discusses proposals and conclusions of the committee on defense and security and the commission on control.

The committee and the commission are due to present their conclusions and proposals to the Supreme Soviet on 1 July.

Parliamentarians Participate in Security Collegium

OW2402181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the parliamentary committee on defense and security and the provisional commission of deputies for control over the formation of state security and law enforcement bodies will take part in an enlarged session of the Collegium of the Russian Federal Security Ministry on Tuesday [25 February]. IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent learned this from Boris Bolshakov, deputy head of that parliamentary committee.

On February 21 the Russian Supreme Soviet instructed the Defense and Security Committee and the provisional commission set up by the parliament's presidium earlier, to report before June 1 on the performance of the Federal Security Ministry and the foreign intelligence service, and submit their suggestions on how to keep the activities of the two structures under permanent parliamentary control.

Bolshakov did not rule out that a new committee could be set up within the Supreme Soviet for control over the activities of federal security bodies.

Committees Reviewing Foreign Policy Priorities

OW2102181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The committees and commissions of the Russian parliament have received for discussion the concept of Russia's foreign policy. Russia's national interests are to be declared the top priority goal. National interests are understood as a higher standard of living, dynamic economy, human rights, democracy and integration into the world community.

The draft says that "Russia sees no state as a hostile one and will not use force for any purpose other than defence. Russia will seek partnership with the civilized world.

Contacts with Russian communities abroad and CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] infrastructures are part and parcel of Russia's foreign policy priorities. The Russian Foreign Ministry says it is expedient to take a flexible position in order to make it possible to conclude agreements to which not necessarily all CIS member-states should be signatories.

Against a background of declining external threat Russia's security is understood increasingly as an economic, ecological, demographic, energy supply and medical affair.

The stability of strategic arms structures, the dialogue with the United States to build and use jointly a global defence system instead of SDI and the elimination of all tactical nuclear arms are high on the agenda.

In Europe, Russia will encourage positive multi-lateral trends, above all, the Helsinki process and cooperation with the EEC, the European Council and other organizations.

Erosion in economic relations with East European countries must be prevented.

In relations with Japan the conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of settlement of the territorial dispute is a priority. Progress towards that goal should be gradual. The public opinion and economic interests should be taken into account.

Russia is going to take further steps to promote a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and build up cooperation with moderate regimes in the Middle East and with OPEC.

Relations with Africa and Latin America will rely heavily on the most promising partners: Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Angola, Nigeria and South Africa.

Bill on Returning Cultural Values Rejected

LD2402162492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] It looks as if the accords reached in Minsk on 21 February by the heads of the Commonwealth countries are revealing the first cracks. Today, the Russian parliament suspended the agreement signed in Minsk on returning cultural and historical values to the states of their origin. The parliament passed a resolution that a study should be made of how this agreement corresponds to international legal norms. Yet another sensation today was the resolution of the parliament abolishing Russian Deputy Premier Shokhin's instruction to hand over the Shneyerson funds to the State Jewish Academy.

[Begin correspondent G. Svishchenkov recording] Today, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet discussed the issue of the fate of the State Russian Library, the former Lenin Library. In the opinion of some deputies, the discord of Yeltsin's decree on creating the Russian State Library on the basis of the Lenin Library relates to an especially valuable object of Russia's national heritage. Deputy President Shokhin issued a number of instructions connected with handing over the Shneyerson funds to the State Jewish Academy and abolishing the library. [end recording] [passage omitted]

State Property Auction Promises 'Turning Point'

OW2402181092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubais, head of Russia's State Property Committee, has said March will see tens of thousands open competitions and auctions at which state property will be transferred into private hands. Speaking at a round-table conference on privatization in the House of Soviets on Monday [24 February], he said "March should become a turning point in implementing Russia's privatization program."

Chubais noted that the benefits offered here to labor staffs involved in the privatization process "exceed those in any other country of the world." In his view, the demands for free privatization, which he said were coming from the ultra-right and ultra-left, meant "an economic deadlock, although the government does realize the people will uphold this slogan most enthusiastically."

According to Chubais, it would be extremely important to rule out any deviations from the official ban on the sale of state property to specific buyers instead of holding auctions open to all. The former option, he emphasised, would be sure to give rise to "large-scale corruption.

Social Policy Commission Begins Aid Services

PM2102141192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, RIKA, ITAR-TASS, KRIM-PRESS roundup: "80 Million Below Poverty Line"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Social Policy Commission has reported that emergency social aid services will be set up in all parts of Russia.

They are intended to help the less well-off to survive in market conditions. According to some estimates, there are now around 80 million people living below the poverty line in Russia, and the entire population's living standard has fallen. On the basis of this indicator, we are back at the 1980 level. Some 1.5 billion rubles have been allocated to set up a social support fund for the population. The task now is to distribute it properly.

Regional Affairs

Moscow To Consider Free Economic Zones

OW2402203092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The administration of the Moscow region will soon consider forming several free economic zones in the area around Russia's capital. This is part of a program to attract foreign investment to Moscow's outlying areas. Nikolay Svistunov, minister of foreign economic activities for the Moscow regional administrations, said that the administration has future plans to make the entire region a free economic zone.

Russian law permits regional councils to create free economic zones. The first local zones are expected to be at the Sheremetevo, Domodedovo and Dubiniy centers. Nikolay Svistunov expects the zones to attract foreign capital by offering investors advantageous geographical locations, low labor costs and tax incentives. Mr. Svistunov added that there will be virtually no restrictions on the range of foreign investment activities in the Moscow region due to lack of market saturation.

Moscow Vice Mayor Thanks Police for Help

OW2402202692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [24 February] Vice-Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov thanked police units for ensuring law and order on February 23, the day of the Armed Forces.

In a letter addressed to the police, he points out that their "skilfull actions and self-control" prevented disturbances when certain political forces tried to "organize mass riots and hold unauthorized rallies and demonstrations" on that day.

Manifestations in Moscow February 23 involved about 15,000 people. According to the Russian Interior Ministry, some 10,000 servicemen of interior bodies were involved to ensure law and order. Of them 21 received traumas in clashes with demonstrators in Tverskaya street.

At the same time, Luzhkov urged Chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Ruslan Khasbulatov "to give a moral, ethic and, possibly, legal assessment" to "in essence, provocative" actions by people's deputies Sergey Baburin, Mikhail Astafyev and others who took an active part in holding the unauthorized rallies in Tverskaya street.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned at the Moscow government press office, on Tuesday at 13:30 a news conference "The situation in Moscow February 23" will be held at the Moscow Council. Deputy Premier of the Moscow government Muzikantskiy, director of the Moscow Mayor's Office Shakhnovskiy and Chief of the Moscow Interior Board Murashev are expected to take part.

Today's Food Supply Problems Solved in Moscow

LD2402164892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] No doubt many people were upset by the report broadcast yesterday that food supplies are ending in Moscow. As Moscow Vice Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov told Russian Television, he has not made any statements regarding the capital's food supply. According to him, Moscow has meat supplies for six weeks, and at the present time the Moscow government is not working on today's problems, which have been solved, but on the question of providing food for the end of March and April. Butter supplies, naturally, are lower—this is how it should be, Luzhkov said. So far there is no particular problem with this product. As regards foreign aid then this can only be a small addition to Moscow's food supply, but by no means is it the basic source. Aid is coming in and being distributed according to a strict schedule.

Moscow 'Homeless Officers' Allocated Apartments

PM2402164792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 2

["Our Correspondent" report: "On the Eve of the Festive Occasion"]

[Text] A meeting devoted to Armed Forces Day took place in Moscow Military District between the Military Council and the district's leading soldiers and Army veterans. The District Commander Colonel General V. Toporov presented valuable gifts and certificates to officers and warrant officers.

Moscow's Mayor Gavriil Popov and Government Premier Yuriy Luzhkov attended the meeting. Popov passed on Russian President B. Yeltsin's congratulations to Moscow Military District's soldiers. Luzhkov announced the Moscow Government's decision, in honor of the festive occasion, to allocate an apartment block in Severnyy Butov with a total area of 14,500 square meters to the district's homeless officers.

Poll Says Fewer Muscovites Hoarding Food

MK2502113592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 1

[Nikolay Kuznetsov report: "Social Barometer: Supplies Drying Up"]

[Text] In mid-February the Moscow branch of the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions polled 2,177 Muscovites. The following results were obtained.

One of the study's questions went as follows: "Do you have food stocks in your home acquired last year?" In comparison with the January poll the number of those with food stocks has dropped to 67 percent (compared to 74 percent in January). Today one-third of Muscovites are living on what they succeed in buying from the trading network (the figure was 24 percent in January). In March the trading network will probably come under even greater pressure from consumer demand, since 30 percent of those polled said that they only have enough supplies to last until the end of the month.

It is worthy of note that there has been virtually no reduction in the number of Muscovites among respondents who said that they have enough food "for two months," "three months," or "more than three months." The figures for these three groups in January and February respectively were 21 and 20 percent, 10 and 9 percent, and 8 percent in both months. Evidently some of these people are able to replenish their stocks, while other are treating their "stores" as reserves which are not to be touched.

Moscow Detachment 'Attacks,' Injures Chechens

LD2502041792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The (DR-PRESS) press agency today reported actions which can be seen as attacks by the Moscow special purpose militia detachment [OMON] on Chechens in our capital. What can be called a raid was carried out at 0700 on the Zarya Hotel, and all Chechens staying in the hotel were detained. The OMON staff behaved in the same way at the Yauza Cafe. (DR-PRESS) reports that those detained were beaten up and that several Chechens were taken to hospital after talking to the OMON staff.

'Seditious' Sobchak Remarks Ignored by Media

PM2502142992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Nikolay Volynskiy report: "A. Sobchak—'Victim' of Glasnost"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—To our indescribable surprise, not one of the major democratic newspapers reporting on the conference of Russian Federation Soviet of People's Deputies leaders in Petersburg published even an account of A. Sobchak's speech. Some failed to mention it at all, and others, like ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, merely said through gritted teeth that A. Sobchak had analyzed government activity "in a highly critical key." Why is it that the great democrat supporter was ostracized this time? Precisely because he did not simply analyze the reformist activity of the Yeltsin-Gaydar Government—he razed it to the ground.

Thus Anatoliy Aleksandrovich declared that government activity is characterized by "complacency and self-delusion." The government embarked on reforms without creating a favorable social background for the population and did nothing to prevent economic paralysis, particularly in the former USSR republics. A system of links with them should have been planned for, but the government chose what was the most unpleasant path, especially for Russia. Today the Baltic countries have become an ideal channel for draining Russia of material and currency resources and raw materials, which is inflicting enormous damage on Russia.

The speaker is convinced that in a state-monopoly economy undergoing price liberalization the state's regulating role should increase and not decrease, as is happening now. The mayor is greatly concerned by direct government decisions on accelerating privatization. Moreover, he noted in particular that the auction method of selling stores, enterprises, and so on slows down the privatization process as it runs up against labor collective resistance. In A. Sobchak's opinion, the best path would be to grant labor collectives the right to rent and subsequently buy out facilities. If they prove unable to buy, or if they fail to make their enterprise profitable, then the enterprise would go under the hammer.

After voicing his considerations on improvements to the taxation mechanism and on how the agrarian reform should progress, Sobchak reproached the government further for acting "secretively" and trying to obey demands from the IMF, which, in his view, is looking for its own benefits.

A great deal in the Russian Federation president and government's activity gives rise to doubt, Petersburg's mayor said. Even the decision to create the CIS was taken by a very narrow circle of people—we were presented with a fait accompli. Again he repeated: If government policy is geared toward IMF demands, then we will "have problems."

Is it clear now why these almost seditious theories by A. Sobchak were not published by the democratic press? Obviously, glasnost has to be like a queen—pleasant in every respect.

Tatar Referendum Aim 'Not Seccession'

LD2502120192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Kazan, 25 Feb (TASS)—The aim of the referendum on the republic's status planned for 21 March is not secession from Russia, but just confirmation of Tatarstan's sovereignty. Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev stated this at a news conference held today. "I have never spoken about independence, let alone secession. That is not the issue. Russia has managed to preserve its sovereigntly so why should we not do the same?" he asked. One must take note of the actual and now unstoppable processes of self-assertion occurring in the former autonomies. The people of Tatarstan must voice their attitude to sovereignty—the parliament has granted them this right. There is no question whatsoever of borders, customs, military doctrine, or our own money, M. Shaymiyev said in conclusion. We intend to do our utmost to strengthen the alliance with Russia and, in the very near future, to conclude a treaty which ought to stipulate which powers should be exercised jointly.

Tatar Party Leaders View Democratic Congress

PM2402145392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Observer Inna Muravyeva report under the "Response to an Event" rubric: "A Courageous and Wise Decision"]

[Text] Kazan—So the Congress of Democratic Forces of Republics and National Territorial Formations in the Russian Federation did nevertheless take place late in the evening of 15 February, on the outskirts of Kazan.

Congress delegates have now dispersed to their republics.

But the people who actually invited the forum participants to their home town remain in Kazan.

I put two questions—how wise and considered was the decision to hold the congress in Kazan and what were the consequences of this event?—to the following: Sergey Markov, member of the Tatarstan Social Democratic Party Board; Rashid Akhmetov, chairman of the Tatar Section of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR]; Dmitriy Mikhaylin, correspondent of the newspaper KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI; Albert Gatin, leader of the People's Front Initiative Center; Yuriy Gvozdetskiy, leader of the Slav Public Liberal People's Center—Unity; and Yuriy Yegorov, student at Kazan University and member of the Coordinating Committee of Russian Citizens—movement for the protection of rights.

Sergey Markov: "I was unable to get through to the Duslyk Hotel or the university building on 15 February, although I came especially for the congress. Extremely indignant at the behavior of the nationalists, we consider that it would have been simply criminal if we had gone away without holding the congress."

Rashid Akhmetov: "The congress had to be held in Kazan without fail. It was essential to understand the situation prevailing here and compare it with the fresh views of people coming from other republics."

Dmitriy Mikhaylin: "I think that holding the congress here in Kazan, in Tatarstan, was both warranted and essential. First, because our republic is the largest of the former autonomous formations; second, disputes over whether or not to secede from Russia have gone a long way here, much further than in the other republics. We have the most tense situation here. In my opinion, if the organizers of the congress and its participants had given way to the provocations of the nationalists and their intimidation, given way to the extremism displayed by just 200 people representing Tatar nationalist movements, local democrats and the whole democratic movement in Russia would have found themelves in a difficult situation."

Albert Gatin: "I consider that the congress participants acted wisely and heroically. Yes, heroically, because they held the congress, conscious of the fact that powerful, well-organized structures were backing the disturbances. That is, of course, a feat, a step befitting courageous people."

Yuriy Gvozdetskiy: "The congress did pinpoint several factors. The forces opposing ordinary people in Kazan represent a very narrow stratum since, in order to even to block access to the congress, some 200-300 people had to be brought in from Naberezhnyye Chelny, Almetevsk, and rural localities. That is to say, the nationalists simply lacked numbers and support in a million-strong city.

"And second, given that Tatarstan 'has outstripped' the other republics in nationalism, those who came to the congress from other republics were able to see with their own eyes what could happen back in their homes if a close watch is not kept on the situation.

"The only way to achieve things 'without weapons' is through talks. One has to sit down and discuss things. Unfortunately, the leaders of the Tatar national movements—TOTS, Ittifak, Azatlyk, and Sovereignty—did not wish to join us, although they were invited."

Yuriy Yegorov: "I was most disturbed by the connivance shown by the authorities in a situation where unknown people by some unknown right demanded on 15 February that I, a Kazan University student, show my papers as I was about to enter the university. These were the people blocking the entrances to both university buildings.

"But I was gratified by something else: There are very few supporters of these nationalist movements among Kazan students. Although our department has a pretty solid Azatlyk organization, there are only 30 members out of the five years, and the bulk of students at the university and other Kazan higher education establishments, with the exception perhaps of the veterinary and agricultural ones, do not support these movements. I fear that the events surrounding the university on 15 February may start up a student movement in our city. I am sure that the excesses of the nationalist extremists, although they occur with the connivance of the authorities, will not last beyond the first major clash with these hooligan elements."

Chechen President Warns of 'Provocative Action'

OW2402215892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Chechen republic Dzhakhar Dudayev has said that his republic is strong enough to defend its independence. He was speaking at a rally on Sunday [23 February] commemorating the victims of Stalinist repression. Dudayev said the Chechen leadership had evidence of preparations for "another provocative action" by the military, Russian secret services, local orthodox communists and crime syndicates.

At the same time President Dudayev said that the Chechen republic was prepared to enter into early talks with Russia and wanted close political and economic ties with it.

Further on 'Union of Caucasian States'

PM2402150792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Ali Kazikhanov report: "Gamsakhurdia and Dudayev Adopt Joint Communique"]

[Text] The talks between President Zviad Gamsakhurdia of Georgia and President Dzhokhar Dudayev of the Chechen Republic ended in Groznyy 20 February. A joint communique was signed.

Despite a noncoincidence of views on some points, the sides pointed out that "because of the national temperament in politics and the existence of contradictions, for which the Caucasian peoples are not to blame, and because these peoples were unable to express their will independently sooner, they proved unprepared for a rapid transition to the mutually acceptable resolution of both interethnic and intra-ethnic problems." The sides are sure, the communique states, that stabilization in the Caucasus is impossible without the good will of the Caucasian peoples for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. We cannot rely on outside assistance, although we welcome it. The resolution of interethnic and interstate conflicts only at the negotiating table—this is the chief idea in the communique. The document emphasizes the mutual understanding reached on many specific problems of concern to the Caucasus: The resolution of the disputed question of the return of Ingush lands only at the negotiating table and without the participation of a third side; the inviolability of historical borders, meaning South Ossetia, which must remain a part of Georgia. But this too is equally important: "The leadership of Russia can and must play a positive role in creating conditions for the normalization of the situation in the Caucasus," the document states. "The withdrawal of troops from the territory of the Caucasus is considered the first positive step in this direction."

It emphasizes the need "to embark right now on the formation of a pan-Caucasian home—a Union of Caucasian States"—and speaks of "the inadmissibility of the attempt at the armed removal of the legally elected power."

A telegram has been sent to T. Sigua on behalf of the Foreign Ministry of the Chechen Republic, proposing that he receive our representatives for a discussion of the points mentioned in the communique, Chechen Republic Foreign Minister Shamil Beno told me, and we have received a letter from Yuriy Yarovoy concerning a meeting of experts to organize talks on the normalization of relations between Chechnya and Russia. The meeting, to all appearances, will be held in Sochi at the end of February or the beginning of March.

Correspondent Questions Use of Magadan Gold

LD2402164492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1333 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Magadan]

[Text] I have already had the occasion to tell Russia's Radio listeners about the tenacity of the idea of the Far East's sovereignty. Not long ago, Magadan Mayor Gennadiy Dorofeyev also expressed himself in favor of this at an oblast soviet session. He did so in the sense that since the government cannot ensure that the people of Magadan have essential food and consumer goods, then should not we stop dispatching gold and find a more worthy use for it? Then we would have all we want. The session made a stir but it did not adopt a decision on the proposal. Had the deputies and mayor known that without any fuss the miners of the oblast had already stopped dispatching precious metals to the Russian treasury from the beginning of the new year! Their colleagues from Yakutiya, the Amur oblast, and other gold producing enterprises in the Far East had also done just the same thing.

The reason for this kind of protest is the failure of the Russian Government to understand the Far East's problems and in particular their refusal to introduce a free price for gold. This is now less than half of the world level. Hence the impoverishment of the gold extraction industry and the poverty of the region. Let us dispose of the gold ourselves and we will feed ourselves and help Russia on top of that. This is not the only point of view on the possibility of economic independence. The other amounts to this, that the oblast and indeed the whole of the Far East will not manage without help from Russia.

Each point of view has its own supporters. The miners, as you will now understand, are fully in favor of the autonomous economy option. Last week the oblast council of the trade union for the industry and the workers' committee of the Severo-Vostok-Zoloto association sent a telegram to the leadership of Russia—Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, and Gaydar—demanding that a free price be set for the precious metals being produced; that the provision of credits on concessionary terms be introduced in the gold mining industry; and that the top leaders of the government come to Magadan within the next ten days to resolve these problems.

I talked by telephone with Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Menshev, chief engineer of the Severo-Vostok-Zoloto association. He said that the refusal to dispatch the gold is now perhaps the only factor holding the miners back from staging a general strike. They know that the gold is here in the oblast and that whatever happens it can be exchanged for all that is necessary for the life of the enterprise. It is a kind of financial and economic guarantee. In the meantime the miners are on the brink of financial disaster. They have hardly enough resources to last until the end of the month for settling their accounts with their partners. The electric power men are already threatening to cut off their supplies of electricity and the miners are stopping coal deliveries. The general situation now is such that it depends on who has the toughest nerves and resolve, the gold miners or the government?

It is difficult to say whether or not anyone from the Russian leadership will come to Magadan because the first and the last leader who came here in 1974 was Kosygin. The rest try to keep as far away as possible from the North's problems. There are a lot of problems here, but few people. It's like Moscow or St. Petersburg, which are capable of removing any government in an instant—but Magadan can wait. But times, it would seem, are changing and now one can only wait and see what runs out first—the endurance of the people or Russia's gold?

Islamic Newspaper on Sale in Daghestan

LD2502111592 Moscow TASS in English 0711 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gajiy Shamov]

[Text] Markhachkala February 25 TASS—"PUT ISLAMA" [THE PATH OF ISLAM]—a new newspaper founded by the Islamic Party of Daghestan, brought out its first issue and was sold in the newspaper stalls of Markhachkala city today. Its goal is the spiritual revival of the high land people, rendering help in studying the fundamentals of religion, history and traditions of the people.

The editorial board will acquaint its readers with thinkers of the past and contemporary religious figures of the Islamic world. The paper will publish different ayats from the holy Koran, important hadits of Muhammad [as received], the fundamentals of the

Sharia and Tariquat. It will also widely publicise life and activities of mosque, religious educational institutions and Islamic organizations. The paper will also narrate international life of Muslim countries, compatriots living abroad and publish news from the Muslim world.

Funds collected by selling the paper will be used in development of Islam in Daghestan.

New Cossack Newspaper Appears in Moscow

LD2502114492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Summary] The first edition of STANITSA, a new Cossack newspaper, appeared in Moscow today. It aims to provide non-ideological coverage of Cossack affairs, past and present, throughout the country, including the communists' attempted genocide against Cossacks.

International Affairs

Report Cited on Black Sea Fleet Sell-Off

AU2402134292 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 21 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Kiev correspondent Grzegorz Gorny: "Nomenklatura Company Is Selling Off Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] A high-ranking official close to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has given ZYCIE WARSZAWY a document indicating that a mysterious company, which is owned by senior Soviet military officers, is selling warships belonging to the Black Sea Fleet to other countries.

The document is a report prepared by the head of the Security Office of the Ministry of Economy and was specially commissioned by the head of that ministry. It states that a joint-stock company called "Nevikon-zyuyd", which was formed in November of last year, was granted the exclusive right to sell Black Sea fleet equipment and assets by the fleet's commander, Vice Admiral Igor Kasatonov.

"Nevikon-zyuyd" is owned by the "Nevikon" joint-stock company (51 percent), the headquarters of which are in Moscow and is represented by Vice Admiral Makhonin, and the Black Sea Fleet (49 percent), which is represented by Vice Admiral Vasilyev, commander of the fleet's rear service.

Senior posts in the company also are held by other officers, including Rear Admiral Khalyulin, deputy commander of the fleet with responsibility for maintenance and repairs, and Captain Bogdanov.

Shortly after it was launched, "Nevikon-zyuyd" acquired Black Sea Fleet equipment and assets worth 1 million rubles, which it then sold, making a profit of 8 million rubles. In addition, it is drawing up inventories and selling off Black Sea fleet technology, weapons, and other assets. Sales lists for 49 vessels have been prepared.

Submarines are the most popular item. It has been decided to sell 15 of them, and buyers already have been found for most of them. There was no problem selling off the cruiser Zhdanov. The document states that it was sold to India for 2.2 million dollars.

This year "Nevikon-zyuyd" is to offer 13 new items, including submarines, coastal patrol vessels, minesweepers, missile patrol boats, amphibious assault craft, and one destroyer, the Svedushchiy.

The document goes on to describe other company activities, which, on the basis of Polish experience, can be termed handing over assets to the nomenklatura.

The chief commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Kasatonov, has not recognized the authority of Ukraine, and the process of selling off Black Sea Fleet assets is taking place without Ukraine exercising any control over it.

President Leonid Kravchuk said that he had protested the process during a private meeting with Boris Yeltsin in Minsk. The Russian president said that this was the first time that he had heard anything about ships being sold off.

Economic Protocol Signed With Lebanon

LD2402114992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1826 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladislav Zhadyayev]

[Text] Beirut, 22 Feb (TASS)—Ukraine and Lebanon have announced their intention to expand economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation. A protocol to this effect was signed by Constantin Masik, first vice premier of Ukraine, and Marwan Hamadah, Lebanon minister of economy and trade. K. Masik is on an official visit to Lebanon. The protocol envisages creation of a joint Ukrainian-Lebanese committee which will have the task of studying ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Turkish-Ukrainian Business Council Meets

TA2402204292 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Onur Kumbaracibasi, public works and housing minister, has said that Turkey attaches a great importance to promote its relations with Ukraine, a CIS member country, and that all kinds of efforts will be exerted to this end.

The Turkish-Ukrainian Business Council met today in Kiev. TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] correspondent Ertugrul Bulent Danaci reports that delivering the opening address, Kumbaracibasi declared that the establishment of the Council is an important step for both countries. Pointing out that trade and economic cooperation between the two countries must be based on a sound foundation, he stressed that agreements are necessary, particularly in the economic field. He also explained that the early signing of an agreement for the establishment of a joint economic committee will provide a great improvement in trade relations.

Recalling that his government has decided to support investments to be made by Turkish businessmen in Ukraine, Kumbaracibasi said that the government is also determined to further relations in the fields of trade, industry, and contracting services. Noting that Turkey considers Ukraine an important partner in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation project, he said that Turkey will establish, within this framework, a free trade zone in Zonguldak in order to provide important facilities to the member countries in the fields of storage. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Proceedings at Supreme Soviet Session Detailed

'Heated Debate,' 'Strong Criticism'

LD2102235292 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 2200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Today the parliament of Ukraine continued its session in Kiev. Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk came out with an initiative to appoint his plenipotentiary representatives in the regions and districts of the republic. He has submitted a corresponding draft law, which evoked a heated debate and strong criticism. The MPs [members of parliament] accused the president of reluctance in withdrawing Ukraine's economy out of the crisis and an attempt to preserve power. Such an opinion was expressed by a large group of deputies of various political views who issued a corresponding appeal. This deputy group proposed that the draft law submitted by the president be turned down as premature. And yet the opinion of those who assess the president's initiative as legally grounded, especially in view of the actual paralysis of the executive power in Ukraine, prevailed. Leonid Kravchuk acquainted MPs in detail with the contents of the draft law. According to the draft law, there must be strong executive power at all levels. Connections between all the structures of state power from the center down to regions and districts must be cleared and well coordinated. There should be strict delimitation of power between the legislative and exetutive bodies. The executive power should be transferred from the Soviets to the executive councils. This is the key element of the proposed draft law, indicated Leonid Kravchuk. The president of Ukraine added that he had no intention to make an attempt on the Soviets. The Soviets will continue functioning, but they will be deprived of the executive power. It is proposed that the transitional period will last until the new constitution of Ukraine is adopted.

Further on Session

LD2402184892 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet continued in Kiev yesterday. At the morning session, the president presented for the deputies' examination a draft law on the Ukraine president's representatives. One important point of the draft law redistributes power from local self-governing soviets to executive committees. It envisages the creation of local state administrations headed by a presidential representative at oblast and rayon level. In short, the state's executive power is being strengthened.

During the discussion of the draft bill, deputies sometimes expressed conflicting opinions. Some warned of the danger of presidential dictatorship, while others were in favor of strengthening his administrative power and suggested that presidential representatives be made the highest ranking officials in the localities. The draft bill on presidential representatives was passed at the first reading.

Yesterday the Supreme Soviet also discussed proposals to amend and alter Ukraine's land laws. The proposals concern the progress of land reform and the appearance of various forms of ownership, in particular private ownership.

A Supreme Soviet resolution on Ukraine's national holiday was adopted yesterday. From now on, 24 August will be Ukraine's Independence Day. We will celebrate it every year as a state national holiday. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's resolution of 16 July is to be considered invalid.

The Supreme Soviet session will continue today.

Social Protection of Writers, Artists Decreed

AU2402091292 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 7 (53), Feb 92 p 1

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on Urgent Measures for Social Protection of Writers and Artists in the Conditions of Transition to Market Relations" issued in Kiev on 6 February]

[Text] To ensure social protection of writers and artists in the conditions of transition to market relations, I resolve as follows:

1. To exempt, beginning 1 January 1992, Ukrainian creative unions (writers, composers, painters, actors, cinematographers, artistic photographers, journalists, architects, folk artists, and designers), the All-Ukrainian Musical Union, and enterprises and organizations that have been created by them for the fulfillment of planned work from income tax and dues to special funds.

2. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers must resolve the following questions:
on providing the publishing house "Ukrayinskyy Pysmennyk" ["Ukrainian Writer"], the children's literature publishing house "Veselka" ["Rainbow"], and periodical publications of the Union of Writers of Ukraine with paper at the level of 1991;
on raising royalties to be paid for authors' publications, public rendition, or other utilization of works of literature and art;
on giving financial assistance to the fund "Literaturni Skarbnytsi" ("Literary Treasures") of the Union of Writers of Ukraine;

on allocating capital to funds of Ukrainian creative unions for giving material assistance to their members;

on the size of payments to funds of Ukrainian creative unions for using literary and art pieces composed by members of these unions;
on the creation of the State Agency of Ukraine for [the Protection of] authors' and related rights.

3. To exempt, beginning 1 January 1992, the Ukrainian Culture Fund, and enterprises and organizations created by it for the fulfillment of planned work from income tax and dues to special funds.

4. The decree becomes effective on the day of its signing.

[signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine

6 February 1992

Tatars Fighting for 'National Liberation'

LD2102233592 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 0100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting of Crimean Tatars upon the appeal of the Crimean Tatar National Movement was attended by more than 10,000 people in Simferopol. As has been reported, this number is significantly higher than the number of people who took part in all the meetings of the republican movement of the Crimea. The main slogan of the meeting was: No to a Crimean Constitution which ignores the rights of the Crimean Tatars, yes to the statehood of the Crimean Tatar people. A decision was adopted at the meeting that in case the draft constitution of the Crimea is adopted, (?Majlis) will work for the recognition of the status of the Crimean Tatars as a nation fighting for its national liberation.

Crimean Veterans Launch Independence Movement

OW2402202892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A pan-Crimean movement of electors for a democratic and independent Crimea within the Commonwealth of Independent States has held its constituent conference in Simferopol.

The movement involves mostly veterans of WWII and retired officers of the former Soviet Army.

The conference adopted the text of an oath of allegiance to the Crimean people, and a resolution saying that the oath should be taken by every Crimean citizen and deputy. It also supported the idea of holding a referendum on Crimean independence and a draft declaration thereof.

Marine Battalion Takes Oath; Leader Dismissed

OW2402184692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Officers, as well as most soldiers of a Black Sea Fleet marine batallion, have taken the oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry press office, an hour after the oath-taking ceremony, the Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Igor Kasatonov dismissed chief of the batallion Vitaliy Rozhmanov and his deputy from their posts.

The marines have called on the Ukrainian president to take control over them.

Mine Disaster Shows Medical Service Problem

PM2102110392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report by G. Kondaurov and Li Din Khvan] txt
[Text] [Announcer] A tragic accident has happened in the central part of the Donbass at the mine named for Gagarin. Here are the details.

[Kondaurov] Following an explosion, a fire has been raging for a week in the mine workings. A mine rescue worker has died, 18 people were injured—doctors were unable to save the lives of two of them—and severely injured miners are hospitalized at the Donetsk burns unit.

The Ukrainian Government and the Miners' Union have sought to provide medicine and many other things. But here at the burns unit there are only two French-made special beds for patients with severe burns for the whole of the Donbass with its fire-prone mines and metallurgical and chemical plants. At Donbass medical centers and clinics there is a catastrophic shortage of modern equipment and medicine. Emergency operations have to be put off because there are no bandages and other elementary requirements. Donbass enterprises, mines, production associations, and plants are prepared to spend some of their own hard currency to buy essentials for medical establishments. Millions of rubles in hard currency, earned by miners, metal workers, and other professions lie at the Moscow Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank] but the accounts have been frozen. The owners cannot draw their hard currency. The governments of Ukraine and Russia have so far failed to reach agreement on this very complex question. But this is a case which cannot afford delay.

New International Institute Director Interviewed

AU2102145992 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 7 (53), Feb 92 p 7

[Interview with O.G. Bilorus, director of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences' World Economics and International Relations Institute [WEIRI], by Mykola Dymyn: "At the Level of World Standards"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] **The World Economics and International Relations Institute started functioning in Kiev. What are its specific features and what makes it different from other research**

institutes? URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent turned to O.G. Bilorus, director of WEIRI, with this question.

[Bilorus] The World Economics and International Relations Institute is an unusual scientific institution. It differs greatly from the already existing scientific research institutes and from those that existed before. Whereas traditional institutes are mainly in charge of promoting pure science, the task of WEIRI is to help the country emerge onto the international arena and integrate within the world economic community. It will also study the experience in the development of the economy and of political structures that has been accumulated in various countries of the world, elaborate expert assessments and recommendations with regard to the trends of Ukraine's external policy, utilize the best foreign experience, and resolve problems of national security and coordination of cooperation with the Diaspora. This institute must do its best to satisfy current needs and keep pace with the developments in the world in order to offer elaborations and recommendations that are topical and useful.

[Dymyn] Has the WEIRI already received tasks, for example, from the Ukrainian Government?

[Bilorus] The institute has received such tasks. The most important of them are concerned with the development of two fundamental doctrines. The first of them is the definition of Ukraine's external economic strategy as one of a new and independent state. This is a very important and crucial task. The second is the elaboration of a doctrine of our country's external political activity in the international arena. We will be engaged in this work for quite a while, but already in a month, we must submit tentative outlines of these state concepts.

[Dymyn] Does the institute offer services in the form of consultations or expert advice?

[Bilorus] Yes, through the system of expert evaluations and analytical studies, the institute prepares conclusions with regard to certain projects and trends of the country's activity in the international arena. Already today, we give considerable assistance to the government, parliament, and president of Ukraine.

[Dymyn] It only remains for me to thank you for this short conversation and wish your institute to become a generator of unique ideas.

Belarus

Shushkevich on Future of Armed Forces

PM2502085492 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Feb 92 p 6

[Jan Krauze report on interview with Belarussian President Stanislas Shushkevich in Minsk; date not given]

[Text] Minsk—President Stanislas Shushkevich is the first to explain that his country is currently only independent "in principle." A moderate man, anxious to do things quietly, to avoid pointless confrontations, he is very close to the image which the Belarussians like to present of themselves, describing themselves as the "most peaceful of the Slav nations."

Unlike Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, his "colleagues," Mr. Shushkevich has not held any top post in the apparatus. Instead he is an academic, a nuclear physicist, the son of a writer who was in prison for 30 years. He entered politics in the first partly democratic elections in spring 1990 and he was elected chairman of parliament after the failure of the August putsch. This strong-looking man is very approachable and does not seem to have acquired a taste for power or its attributes: He gave up the impressive official dacha which was intended for him in favor of a country house which he "built himself." The small but very active parliamentary opposition—an emanation of the People's Front, in other words the democratic and separatist "left"—recognizes his sincerity and honesty but accuses him of being too willing to accept a parliament which represents the old order, comprising two thirds apparatchiks and other kolkhoz directors, not to mention several dozen representatives of veterans', blind, and deaf and dumb associations....

According to one People's Front deputy, the government is even more "reactionary" and ultimately Mr. Shushkevich who said in the past that he was "95 percent in agreement with the opposition" is now allegedly playing into the hands of the conservatives who are responsible for the slow pace of the reforms because land has still not been privatized. The opposition has therefore just launched a campaign to collect signatures in favor of holding a referendum leading to new elections. While knowing that this is a dangerous gamble given the great apathy among the population who, as elsewhere, are facing a huge increase in prices barely tempered by an economic situation regarded as a little better than that of Russia. Mr. Shushkevich thinks that the opposition is being "presumptuous"—a criticism that he is not likely to face: In the interview which he granted us, he justified his reputation for caution and confirmed his refusal to speed things up. But he also revealed himself as a man of conviction, perhaps deceptively weak, who wants above all to enable his country to take its first steps without pointless risks.

Mr. Shushkevich's main concern is to counter the widespread view in the world of the last CIS summit on military affairs. "It was not a failure at all." Indeed, "we did much more than I expected—16 agreements were signed." Of course, on the copies which he produced to demonstrate that, some signatures were crossed out or accompanied by conditions and several texts contain very little of substance. However, the Belarussian president, who is clearly anxious to present the meeting which he hosted as a success, thinks that "the main problems were solved." In particular, the agreement on nuclear weapons was "clarified." All tactical weapons will have left Belarussian territory "before 1 July." "We would have liked to move faster, but that is not possible." Moreover, that is why the two-year period stipulated for the transfer of strategic missiles to Russia is merely an objective on which Mr. Shushkevich has some "doubts." The fact that Belarus, unlike Ukraine, only houses mobile missiles, does not make the task easier and, in both cases, the security of the transfer must be ensured and the fate of the many soldiers serving in those units settled.

With regard to conventional forces, Belarus has made its position clear: It cannot be relied upon to participate in "unified Commonwealth forces" other than for a two-year period intended to guarantee a smooth transition. The problem is being raised here more acutely than elsewhere, because of the extreme concentration of troops on Belarussian territory: "One soldier for every 43 civilians, as against one for every 64 in Russia, and one for every 528 in Tajikistan." In "real" figures that adds up to 180,000, to which must be added 60,000 auxiliaries, whereas Belarus is envisaging "no more than 50,000 or 60,000 men" for its future army: "In proportion, it is a little more than Switzerland, but we have much less natural protection."

Would not everything be more simple if Russia abandoned the fiction of a common army? "Logic requires that Russia should have its own army. The current situation is meaningless." Moreover, as he pointed out to Boris Yeltsin: "What arms reduction were you talking about on the other side of the Atlantic if you do not have an army?" (Mr. Kravchuk made the same remark, but in public and in a much more caustic way.) However, "for the time being, Russia does not have the courage to take that step." At all events, even if there is to be an army which is "common" to Russia and some other states, "for me, it will be a Russian army. What difference does it make if you add 140,000 Kazakhs to 2,300,000 Russians?" That is why "the essential thing now is to negotiate with Russia."

For the time being, no progress has been made on the very thorny question of the "division" of the forces situated in the different states. What would his reaction be if Russia seized control of all the former Soviet Army as it did the embassies, for instance? "No, that is not possible, it is not acceptable. What would then become of the troops in our country? Would they be an army of occupation? However, they can if they wish take the troops which are stationed overseas, in Germany and Poland. Even if, legally speaking, that produces very strange situations. For instance, in our parliament, we have deputies elected by the "Soviet" contingent in Poland, like General Viktor Dubinin (the present commander of that contingent—LE MONDE editor's note). That is a nonsense, but we will make do with it...."

Mr. Shushkevich is not the kind of man to blow this kind of thing out of proportion. Nor is he the kind of man to do anything rash: What does he think of the Russian-Ukrainian quarrel over the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea? You know, I do not know that fleet; moreover, I do not have the right to comment on relations between Ukraine and Russia. We do not aspire to the fleet or to the Crimea. However, if there is division (of the fleet—LE MONDE editor's note) we want our contribution (to the funding of that fleet—LE MONDE editor's note) to be taken into consideration."

While refraining from "commenting" and putting itself forward, is Belarus not folowing the Ukrainian example? Not really, Mr. Shushkevich replied, "our historical premises are very different" and "Ukraine enjoys more favorable natural conditions." "Yes, we are moving toward independence, but we do not contemplate the kind of separation from Russia that Ukraine can afford to contemplate—not even in the very long term." And then "if there is no democracy in Russia, there will be no democracy in our country." What we need therefore is "to convince the Russian leadership that our sovereignty does not conflict with Russia's interests." Would it be difficult to convince them of that? "No, not at all; you know, they (the Russian leadership—LE MONDE editor's note) do not have the same view. But Boris Nikolayevich understands our position very well, he knows that there will be no treachery from us."

If, despite everything, things do not go as harmoniously as expected in this respect, if the CIS were to collapse, could Belarus contemplate—as Ukraine already seems to be doing—turning more toward its Western neighbors—Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary? "That is entirely possible, but it would presuppose a very difficult transition: 70 percent of our production goes to Russia and the other former Soviet republics." In the shorter term, will Belarus create its own currency (for the time being it has simply introduced a coupon system intended to protect its stores from its neighbors' appetites)? "This is another difference from Ukraine. I will make every effort to avoid reaching that point."

There is caution, therefore, and a concern not to cause upheavals. This applies to internal political life too. Of course Mr. Shushkevich said—and still says—he is in favor of new elections. But you very quickly realize that he is anything but in a hurry: "It is not just here that parliament represents the past." Moreover, "this parliament is the reflection of our society." And "it must be judged on its actions: This 'reactionary' parliament has adopted very progressive laws." With regard to the opposition, "it was anticommunist" but at present "it does not have any profound philosophy" (this is a way of returning the compliment often paid to him—LE MONDE editor's note): "It is easy to say that we must move more quickly to a market economy or that everybody must speak Belarussian...." Indeed, some oppositionists "overestimate themselves" and "they would not necessarily be reelected if the elections they are demanding took place." "First, we must adopt a new Constitution and a new electoral law...."

Is it not also time to change the government? "Of course, it is an old-style structure. It is a huge machine, a monster, and the prime minister (Mr. Kebich—LE MONDE editor's note) for whom I have great respect, cannot control it." But the president immediately added that he has no intention of replacing his prime minister.

Indeed, could he do it, and, more generally, would he not be more at ease, particularly faced with Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk, if he enjoyed the blessing of a presidential election? It was on this point that Mr. Shushkevich's essential "difference" suddenly emerged: "The amount of power I have suits me perfectly. If I had more, I would make more mistakes...." Does he mean that he has reservations about the clearly more presidential system in force in Russia? It was pointless to try asking that: "I do not want to say anything about that."

Mr. Shushkevich is also modest in his way of envisaging the role which his country could play in international life: "Of course, there is no question of influencing events. But we can play a role by setting an example." The example of reasonable behavior.

That leaves the question which one would probably hesitate to ask elsewhere or of a different man: Does his country—Belarus—really exist? He replied by referring to history and, of course, to the basic ignorance shown by the West." But he immediately added: "For the time being, our independence is purely theoretical," but it will be "less and less" so. And "by the end of this millenium, I do not think that anybody will doubt the fact that Belarus really exists."

Shushkevich Meets EC Commission Delegation

LD2502080392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report by Minsk correspondent A. Zhuk on an EC Commission delegation's visit to Minsk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This EC Commission delegation visit is viewed with special attention in Minsk, the Belarussian Republic's leaders have said. EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, head of the delegation, arrived in Minsk with a group of experts to study the situation locally, to establish political contacts, and to identify the possibilities for cooperation in a number of areas. This concerns the questions of investments and credits for implementing the market economy projects. Stanislav Shushkevich, leader of the Belarussian parliament, announced that questions of the legislative provision for

Belarussia's entry into the market economy will be examined at the republican Supreme Soviet's next session.

[Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian at 1800 GMT on 24 February adds: "The EC can give Belarussia $125 million in credits for purchasing food and medicine, Frans Andriessen, leader of the delegation visiting Minsk and EC Commission vice president, told a news conference today. This is the first visit by an EC official to Belarussia. Its objective is studying the political and economic situation in the republic and discussing an intermediate agreement on cooperation between the EC and Belarussia and problems of security and disarmament. That was the subject of the conversation at the reception by Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and government leader Vyacheslav Kebich."]

Publications Question State's Nonnuclear Stance

MK2202140592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 92 pp 1,3

[Report by Igor Sinyakevich: "Belarus: Will Republic Be Nuclear State. First Voices 'For' Appear"]

[Text] Of late the following question has been the subject of debate in Belarus: Should Belarus give up the nuclear weapons on its territory or take control of them and become a nuclear state?

Whereas previously the opinions held by all political forces and the public were unequivocal—Belarus has had enough with Chernobyl, the republic must be a nuclear-free zone—other voices can be heard now.

Unlike Ukraine, where the demands for a "nuclear guarantee" for independence can be heard at rallies held by radicals, in Belarus this viewpoint is being voiced in influential publications. Thus, Anatoliy Maysenya, a NARODNAYA GAZETA (the Belarus Supreme Soviet organ) commentator, wrote in an article headlined "Window on the World": "No one disputes the strategic aim of nuclear disarmament, but should events be forced?.. Belarus is entitled to ask whether the West is ready to compensate it for voluntarily giving up its status as a nuclear state... I do not think that we should be consoled to see Belarus become like Upper Volta as a result of triumphal disarmament, only this time without nuclear missiles."

Geopolitician Aleksandr Peropechka, assistant lecturer at the Belorussian [as published] University, said in an interview: "Belarus should not hastily part with tactical nuclear weapons today. It would be better to transfer them to its jurisdiction and establish reliable control over them, including international control. Believe me, in the present situation where unpredictable processes are raging across the expanse of the former Soviet Union, we would feel far more confident and calm. To be frank, the West respects the existence of these 'toys.'"

Some factors that cannot be cited enable us to say that it was not without some movement in the top structures of power that these articles appeared. However, the idea of a nuclear shield has not as yet met with extensive support in society.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Arrives in Austria, Meets Waldheim

LD2102125992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has arrived in Vienna on a short working visit. He has met with Austria's Federal President Kurt Waldheim. Questions of strengthening and expanding political and economic cooperation were discussed during the friendly conversation. It was noted that the development of such cooperation corresponds to the interests of both states.

The Kazakh president also met today with Federal Chanceller Franz Vranitzky. The ties between Kazakhstan and Austria are entering a qualitatively new stage, since a communique was signed during the visit on establishing diplomatic relations between the two states.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] It is a question of attracting the attention of Austrian business circles, which have traditional relations with Kazakhstan. All the legislative acts have been passed in Kazakhstan to create good conditions for foreign investors.

Regarding all the positions that we want to agree on, we have come to an agreement. [end recording]

Assesses Results of Visit

LD2102131892 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna February 20 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev described his Austrian working visit that ended here today as very saturated, successive and effective.

The Kazakh leader has met Federal President Kurt Waldheim, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Foreign Minister Alois Mock and representatives of the local business and banking communities.

The non-stop negotiations resulted in signing a document on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Austria, Nazarbayev told ITAR-TASS before he left home.

The sides have also reached an agreement on granting Kazakhstan a credit without fixing its maximum level. The credit will be used to fulfill specific projects.

The Kazakh president said the negotiations focused on economic issues. Kazakh riches and its economic potential are widely known, and everyone is interested in cooperation with it.

They have discussed politics as well. The Austrian side wanted to know about the current situation in Kazakhstan and the whole Commonwealth in the light of transformations underway in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In his turn, Nazarbayev conveyed the already known stand: Everything should be done to prevent the country's disintegration into European and Asian parts. In order to do it, it is necessary to create coordinating bodies to help overcome the crisis in all areas, the president said in conclusion.

Comments on Eliminating Missiles

LD2102131792 Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna February 20 TASS—In an interview with the Austrian newspaper KURIER today, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said each republic within the Commonwealth of Independent States should be independent and free politically. However, it is necessary that the Commonwealth represents a single economic space similar to Western Europe and the European Community.

Nazarbayev is on a working visit to Austria.

"Many contend that the Soviet Union has collapsed but this is not so. What has collapsed is the Russian empire, which the Russian leaders themselves say, and one should not make a tragedy out of this. The republics should now work jointly. Fifty per cent of all goods that are vital to Kazakhstan were brought from other republics and these ties cannot be easily broken up," Nazarbayev emphasised.

Replying to a query about the future of nuclear weapons on Kazakhstan's territory, Nazarbayev pointed out his country did not want to be a nuclear power. However, time is needed to eliminate nuclear weapons. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan signed an agreement to establish a single command of the strategic armed forces. The decision on the possible use of nuclear weapons is made by these republics, none of which can undertake anything independently here. Nazarbayev stressed Kazakhstan takes part in all talks to reduce nuclear arsenals.

However, China, Kazakhstan's neighbour, is a nuclear power like Pakistan and India. Therefore, Kazakhstan's point of view is as follows: At least 15 years will be needed to eliminate missiles, Nazarbayev said. It is desirable that China, Pakistan and India follow Kazakhstan's example, he added.

Grants Interview

AU2002202692 Vienna KURIER in German 20 Feb 92 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by Hans Rauscher; place and date not given: "We Have Raw Materials and Need Technology"]

[Text] [Rauscher] You are considered to be the most powerful man in Central Asia.

[Nazarbayev] This is an exaggeration. People probably say that because we have the second largest territory after Russia. We are very rich in raw materials, and our geopolitical situation is also important: Kazakhstan is located in the middle of Central Asia. Second, Kazakhstan, which is a multinational state, pursues a policy that recognizes the equal rights of all men. This ensures a stable political situation. The third aspect I would like to mention is that I am the first president in our 400 year history elected by all the people on the basis of a democratic law.

[Rauscher] Is it true that privatization is more advanced in Kazakhstan than anywhere else in the former Soviet Union?

[Nazarbayev] Yes. Our parliament adopted the law on the introduction of the market economy earlier than other republics, but people have grown up in the socialist system, and they are used to the state taking care of them. When enterprises are not very efficient, the state provides subsidies. The employees could go to work and not do anything for eight hours and still get paid the same as others. We have 300 million recipients of subsidies, and from a psychological viewpoint it is not very easy to teach these people privatization now. For this reason, we started with the privatization of housing. Small-scale privatization includes shops, enterprises offering services, and small companies. Within the framework of large-scale privatization, state owned enterprises will be turned into stock corporations. The public sector accounts for 81.5 percent, which means that 19 percent are no longer state owned. In agriculture we lease land for life. It may also be passed on to one's offspring. Everybody has the right to set up his own business.

[Rauscher] Your model is reportedly based on South Korea and Singapore's concept; that is, the concept of the so-called "authoritarian market economy."

[Nazarbayev] You should not make this comparison. I have a U.S. and a British adviser. It is a pity that Gorbachev never invited or consulted foreign experts during his seven years in office. He was surrounded by people who did not know anything but talked a great deal. As a matter of fact, I visited South Korea. It is a small state that has no resources but is one of the 10 most developed countries. However, we cannot adopt one of these models completely. Different people have different psyches.

[Rauscher] The Confucian work ethic prevails in South Korea and Singapore.

[Nazarbayev] We Kazakhs are also Muslims, which means that we have cultural links with the Arab countries, with the East, despite the fact that historically Islam is very weak. It does not have deep roots in our country. We have a civilized form of religiousness. In this respect, Turkey is interesting for me. We will never have an Islamic state. Islam is strong in Central Asian republics, such as Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, or Turkmenistan.

[Rauscher] In any case, Kazakhstan is very rich in mineral resources.

[Nazarbayev] We have enormous oil and gas deposits in the West. In the 21st century, most of the oil will be produced in Kazakhstan (taking the whole former Soviet Union as a basis).

We will produce between 40 and 90 percent of copper, lead, zinc, wolfram, and various metals, as well as aluminum for constructing aircraft; 65 percent of all silver and a very high percentage of gold; 55 percent of uranium, 140 million tonnes of coal; and 90 percent of all ores and phosphorus. All these indications are based on the total amount produced in the former Soviet Union. However, we do not simply want to export nonferrous metals but also cables or parts for the automobile industry. To be able to process the metals, we need technology from Austria for example. We could set up small enterprises in Kazakhstan and sell the products there.

[Rauscher] In your view, does the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] stand a chance?

[Nazarbayev] People say the Soviet Union disintegrated. No. The Russian empire disintegrated. Even the Russian leaders say so. It disintegrated just like Austria-Hungary. We should not call this a tragedy. Nationalism was suppressed and is now manifesting itself. It is important not to indulge in nationalism at the expense of others. I have advocated the unity of a new union because the Soviet power concentrated certain production branches in the individual republics. For instance, Kazakhstan imported 50 percent of all basic products from other republics. We cannot change this so easily. Each republic should be politically free and independent, but all of them should form a single economic area—as in West Europe, in the EC. God has made it our task to work together, and that is what I advocate.

[Rauscher] Kazakhstan has intercontinental nuclear missiles. What are you planning to do with them?

[Nazarbayev] Strategic nuclear weapons are deployed in four republics (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan). We do not want to be a nuclear state, but it takes time to remove them. We four have signed an agreement under which we will create one clear supreme command of our strategic forces. The problem of their possible use—God forbid—will, however, be decided by the four republics. No republic can decide anything on its own. Kazakhstan's position is clear. We take part in all negotiations on reducing nuclear weapons—on an equal footing.

Our neighbor, China, is a nuclear power. Pakistan and India are nuclear powers. That is why we have a very clear position. It will take at least 15 years to destroy these missiles if work progresses well. It would be desirable for China, Pakistan, and India to join us.

[Rauscher] Are the weapons not in Russian hands?

[Nazarbayev] Those who have them cannot control them. The chief command can do nothing without our agreement.

Nazarbayev Calls for Greater CIS Coordination

OW1602172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has called for the creation of intra-CIS coordinating bodies "to monitor compliance with the documents signed by the Commonwealth member states." He said the absence of such bodies might lead to a situation whereby the "fairly promising" agreements reached at the CIS summit in Minsk would remain unfulfilled. Speaking live on Channel I (Moscow TV) on Sunday [16 February], he criticized a number of ex-Soviet republics for regarding any coordinating bodies in the Commonwealth as "another dictatorial center."

Nazarbayev expressed concern over the fact that the documents adopted in Minsk were expected to be specified in "additional treaties and agreements" later.

The Kazakh president warned against building up any barriers—least of all, economic ones—among the republics. He complained that "the links maintained for 74 years, or even longer, have been torn up, leaving the economy in a miserable state." He did not rule out the possibility that intra-CIS relations might "take a tragic turn" if the economic paralysis and closure of trade borders were aggravated by the formation of republican armies.

Nazarbayev noted that Russia and Kazakhstan had been the only two countries to agree to lift all licenses and quotas in bilateral trade, a move welcomed by the producers in both republics. To strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Kazakh leader suggested:

—setting up a powerful coordinating center—probably a Europarliament-style assembly;
—concluding a banking union for all those staying within the ruble zone;
—working out a coordinated pricing policy for the basic industries, primarily the fuel and energy complex, and considering the coordination of the finance-and-credit system as a whole;
—lifting all customs barriers among the CIS republics.

Industrial Output to CIS States Increases

LD2002223392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] In the present situation where old economic ties among the republics of the former Soviet Union are being broken, Kazakhstan continues to increase the export of its industrial output to Commonwealth of Independent States countries as well as abroad. A RIKA correspondent was informed today by the State Statistics Service that since the beginning of January the volume of black metals exported from the republic has increased 46 times, while that of copper has increased 24 times. There are also substantial exports of oil, mazut, and ferroalloys. The increase in supplies of these products is facilitated by a smooth functioning of enterprises of the leading industry.

Agreements on Cooperation With Pakistan Signed

LD2402124692 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Islamabad February 24 TASS—The working day of President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who is currently here on an official visit, began with a ceremony to sign five documents that lay foundations for the establishment and development of relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, together with the president of Kazakhstan, signed a declaration on principles for cooperation between the two countries.

Other documents were signed by members of the Pakistani and Kazakhstan delegations: agreements on cooperation in the fields of the economy, trade, science, technology, culture, sports and tourism.

Pakistani news organisations note great importance of this step. They believe that a considerable increase in the scope of bilateral trade can be expected soon.

Nazarbayev Satisfied With Visit to India

LD2202134192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0958 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Delhi, 22 Feb (TASS)—Foundations for mutual cooperation between Kazakhstan and India in the political, economic, and social fields were laid as the result of a two day official visit to this country by President

Nursultan Nazarbayev which finishes today. As a result of talks and negotiations held with Indian leaders, five interstate documents have been signed. The most important among them—the declaration on principles of mutual relations between Kazakhstan and India—was signed by N. Nazarbayev and Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. In the package of documents—agreements on establishing diplomatic and consular relations, on cultural, scientific, and sporting relations, and on trade-economic interaction—an agreement was also signed between the State Bank of India and the Bank of Foreign Activities of Kazakhstan which provides financial support for trade ties between the two countries.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS question at a news conference for Indian and foreign journalists, the Kazakhstan president highly evaluated the results of the visit. "We think that all tasks which our delegation had set itself have been fulfilled and we are satisfied with the results of the talks." N. Nazarbayev expressed gratitude to the leadership and the people of India for "a very warm and friendly reception" and for creating all conditions for the work of the delegation and a successful visit.

Prime Minister Greeted With Ceremony in China

LD2402161892 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Beijing February 24 TASS—An official welcoming ceremony in honour of Sergey Tereshenko, the prime minister of Kazakhstan, was held today in the central hall of the Chinese parliament's building.

A military band played the anthems of China and Kazakhstan. Sergey Tereshenko and Chinese Premier Li Peng inspected the guards of honour representing three arms of the Chinese Armed Forces. An artillery salute was fired in honour of the Kazakhstan guest at the eastern doors of the parliament building.

A brief friendly conversation took place between the two premiers after the ceremony ended.

Then, Li Peng gave a reception in honour of Sergey Tereshenko and members of the government delegation led by him.

Official talks will begin on Tuesday [25 February].

Talks With Li Peng

LD2502081392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kashirov]

[Text] Beijing, 24 Feb (TASS)—PRC State Council Premier Li Peng called the current visit to the PRC by Kazakhstan's government leader "an important event in the history of PRC-Kazakh relations." During a friendly talk with Sergey Tereshenko in the Great Hall of the People today, Li Peng emphasized that the PRC Government is ready to develop friendly and cooperative relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence.

"You are the first Kazakh prime minister to visit the PRC after your Republic declared its independence. This fully testifies to the friendly feelings of the government and the people of Kazakhstan toward the Chinese people," Li Peng said, addressing Sergey Tereshenko. The Chinese leader noted that the PRC and Kazakhstan have a common border of over 1,700 kilometers. The people of our neighboring friendly countries live in peace and concord and have done so since ancient times. No changes in the international situation will have any effect on the friendship between our two countries.

Sergey Tereshenko conveyed greetings to Li Peng from the Republic of Kazakhstan's president, noting that Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the PRC last year made a very deep impression on the president. The Kazakh Government leader spoke for the further development of friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

First Batch of Sugar From China Arrives

OW2402232692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first batch of sugar has arrived in Kazakhstan from China. China will supply the Republic with 150 thousand tons [as received] of sugar by the end of the summer. In return Kazakhstan will send fertilizer to China. The trade agreement was signed in January 1992 during a visit to Alma-Ata by a government delegation from China.

At present Kazakh-China talks are underway in Alma Ata on transportation problems which are hindering the development of bilateral trade.

Republic Plans To Purchase Coke From China

LD2202150892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0952 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] According to some reports, Kazakhstan intends to buy in China more than 100,000 tons [as received] of coke.

Following the refusal by Russia and Ukraine to continue coal deliveries, many of Kazakhstan's machine-building enterprises are facing stoppage...coke in Kazakhstan is produced only by the Karaganda metallurgical plant, but this amount is barely sufficient to meet its own requirements. The 8th and 9th batteries of this plant could produce additional coke, but the Republic needs 1.5 billion rubles to operate them at full capacity, which it does not have at present.

According to some reports, Kazakhstan's annual requirement for coke is 133,000 tons.

Cuba Signs Accord To Exchange Sugar for Oil

OW2102013692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2356 GMT 20 Feb 92

[From the 21 February "Interfax Business Report"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Cuba and Kazakhstan have signed a 5-year agreement according to which Cuba will supply Kazakhstan with 200,000 tons [as received] of raw sugar in exchange for 400,000 tons of Kazakh oil. Kazakhstan's Ministry on Foreign Economic Relations told Interfax that the republic is expecting a shipment of 50,000 tons of sugar from China to arrive soon. Kazakhstan is also currently planning to sign agreements to receive supplies of sugar from India and Hungary.

Nazarbayev Decree Privatizes Farm Property

LD2402002992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] We do not need loss making farms. This is how President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev decisively determined their fate when signing a decree on privatizating the property of enterprises in the agro-industrial complex. It must be said that the laws on privatization in Kazakhstan have met bitter resistance from the former power structures in the localities. This latest decree in effect forcibly ends the collective and state farm system, binding republican organs to set up special commissions before 1 March and to sell off or hand over the property of agricultural enterprises for collective and private use. Some believe that the president's decree will force the collective and state farms to get carried away with dividing up property and there will be no one to carry out the spring sowing. We will see in the near future.

Afghan Delegation Completes Visit to Alma-Ata

LD1702200392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0000 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev had a meeting with the government delegation of Afghanistan headed by Vice President 'Abdorrahim Hatef. The guest noted that two republics have common historic routes and tradition. Despite the difficult time the Afghan side hopes to set up broad contacts with the Commonwealth of Independent States and get assistance from these states.

On behalf of the Afghan people, the vice president expressed thanks for economic aid, training personnel for national economy, and student education during the past few years. Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that Kazakhstan aspires to establish political, economic, and cultural ties with all states which embark on a civilized way of developments. He expressed hope that fratricidal war in Afghanistan will stop as soon as possible. There are a number of other problems as well, but they should not impede cooperation with Afghanistan in economic, political, trade, and cultural spheres. However, the current situation should be taken into account when building relations.

On behalf of President Najibollah, an invitation to President Nazarbayev to visit Afghanistan was delivered. The invitation was received with gratitude. Prime Minister Tereshchenko; Dzholdasbekov, deputy prime minister; Suleymenov, minister of foreign affairs; and Abishev, minister of foreign economic relations, took part in the talks. The Afghan Government delegation had negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The guests had a sightseeing tour in Alma-Ata. Today they will fly to Kabul.

New Project To Save Aral, Caspian Seas

LD2102182192 Moscow TASS in English 1029 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Alma-Ata February 20 KAZTAG-TASS—A Central Asian academic claims to have discovered a direct link between the drying up of the Aral Sea and the increased water levels in the Caspian. Doctor Robert Kurmantayev, head of the Kazakh Institute of Hydrology maintains the sea level in the Caspian will go on rising as the Aral dries up.

Doctor Kurmantayev has revealed an interesting interdependence between the Aral and Caspian Seas which are 450-500 kilometers apart. When the Aral Sea began to dry up, the water level in the Caspian Sea began to rise considerably. Research carried out by the scientist gave him a basis to assert that the correlation between the areas of both seas' basins should be roughly the same.

The researcher thinks the main reason behind the ecological catastrophe is the disturbance in the gravitational balance across the intercontinental area of Eurasia, directly linked to the sharp fall in the volume of the Aral Sea. But at the same time due to our planet's rotation it tends to restore the balance. This caused regional changes on the land surface and in climate which are to be considered a response of the largest internal reservoir on the Earth to the progressive degradation of the Aral. Hence the necessity to prevent the Aral from drying up as soon as possible.

One of the plans worked out by Doctor Kurmantayev involves the construction of a 450 kilometer long Caspian-Aral canal to divert the Caspian's surplus water to the Aral.

However, because the Caspian Sea is lower than the Aral, the water will have to be pumped through the canal. Shifting several billions of cubic meters of water will need a lot of electricity, which can be generated by constructing a network of solar power stations. In this area the sun shines for about three hundred days a year.

Servicemen's Protection Department Created

*LD2302193592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1556 GMT 23 Feb 92*

[From the "Politics" section: "Kazakhstan Sets Department for Protection of Servicemen"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The State Defense Committee of Kazakhstan established a department for social and legal protection of servicemen. The information was reported by the chairman of the republic State Defense Committee, Sagadat Nurmagambetov, in his address to servicemen and officers in connection with the Armed Forces Day (February 23) published in the February 22 issue of the KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper.

According to Nurmagambetov, the department is to protect the rights of servicemen—citizens of Kazakhstan. [sentence as received] He also said that in future, Kazakhstan is likely to train its military personnel on the basis of the Alma-Ata military school to be transformed into a multi-profile military educational establishment.

President Appoints Ministers, Governors

*LD1402164192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network
in Kazakh 0200 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[Text] As decreed by President Nazarbayev, the following appointments have been made:

Minister of Geology and Protection of Natural Resources: Lev Mikhaylovich Trubnikov;
Minister of Material Resources: Kanat Turakov;
Minister of Ecology and Bioresources: Svyatoslav Aleksandrovich Medvedev;
Governor of Aktyunbinsk Oblast: Shalbay Jumakhanov;
Governor of N. Kazakhstan Oblast: Vladimir Karlovich Gartmen;
Governor of Semipalatinsk Oblast: Vyacheslav Fedorovich Chernov.

By decrees of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Baykenov has been released from his duties as chairman of the State Committee for Geology and the Protection of Natural Resources in connection with his transfer to another post.

Dubitskiy has been released from his duties as chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and the Use of Nature in connection with his transfer to another post.

[Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh at 1500 GMT on 12 February reports the following:

"By decrees of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan the following appointments have been made:
"Governor of Dzhambul Oblast: Umirbek Baygeldiyev;
"Governor of Mangistau Oblast: Fedor Afanasyevic Novikov;
"Governor of Tselinograd Oblast: Andrey Georgiyevich Braun.

"By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Shamil Khayrullahulu Bekbulatov has been appointed minister of transport construction and released from his duties as minister of roads.

"By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Yerkegeliy Rakhmadiyev has been appointed minister of culture and released from his duties as chairman of the State Committee for Culture."]

Supreme Council Passes Law on Self-Government

*OW1502184792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1627 GMT 15 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its January session the Kazakh Supreme Council passed a law on local self-government. The law abolishes regional, city and district executive committees of Soviets of People's Deputies and sets up local self-government bodies. From now on, heads of local administrations will be subordinated to the president only.

Socialist Party To Succeed Communist Party

*LD2002104792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2139 GMT 19 Feb 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazakhstan Socialist Party declares itself a successor of the Republican Communist Party. Text of the program, published on February 19 in Republican mass media says that the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan [SPK] supports maintaining of reliable defence capability of the Republic, backs up the Republican leaders' position, as regards the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Kazaklhstan in future.

The Socialist Party of Kazakhstan supports the strategy of development within the framework of negotiation process on the Commonwealth of Independent States, while maintaining that the requirements of firm guarantees as regards nuclear or any other attack from Russia's Federation and China should be taken into consideration. The SPK intends to adopt its program at its XIXth Congress, this March. As of January 1, the SPK had 45 thousand members.

Oil Processing Industry To Be Promoted

*OW2102193492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1645 GMT 21 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan believes the sales of crude oil have no prospects and is determined to promote the oil-processing industry, Kazakh Premier Sergey Tereshchenko said at a meeting with workers of the "Kumkol" oil-field in the Kyzyl-Ordinsk region.

The "Kumkol" is capable of providing 1 million tons [as received] of oil annually. In case new wells equipped with modern tecnics are opened, its capacity could reach 3-3.5 million of tons a year, Tereshchenko said. At the same time, the Kazakh Premier stressed the need to process oil on the republican territory. He pointed out that "a state which only sells its natural resources has no future".

Uzbekistan

State To Take Control of Local Military Units

LD2402104592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Army units stationed in Uzbekistan are to come under the republic's control. Apart from members of the National Guard, servicemen will not be expected to swear a new oath. This is reported by the newspaper NARODNOYE SLOVO, which publishes an interview with Rustam Ahmadov, minister for defense affairs and commander of the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The ministry is taking a close look at servicemen's social and living conditions and giving priority attention to their housing problems, Rustam Akhmedov notes. The minister also stressed that, in transferring to the republic's jurisdiction, military units stationed there would, if need be, become part of armed forces guarding the common frontiers of the CIS member states.

Republic KGB Now National Security Service

LD1902024992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The Karakalpakstan Supreme Soviet Presidium has issued a decree transforming the republican KGB into a national security service based on the republican committee. According to KGB Chairman Romanenko, its role will be to defend the sovereignty, constitutional rule, territorial integrity, economic, scientific, and defensive capacity of Karakalpakstan.

Saudi Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD2202142492 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[text] A delegation from Saudi Arabia arrived in Tashkent yesterday. The delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, was met at the airport by Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzoqov and other officials. Today the delegation was received by Uzbek President Karimov.

Establish Relations

LD2102230992 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tashkent, Feb 21, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince al-Faysal Al Sa'ud has conveyed the greetings of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Muslims in the former Soviet republics and confirmed that the monarch's efforts exerted to help them reflect his appreciation and respect of these states.

He confirmed that the Saudi delegation accompanying him is ready to discuss all aspects of cooperation to which the Kingdom can contribute.

"We are keen on giving this delegation the opportunity to become acquainted with Muslim ulemas, cultured people, existing scientific institutes in this country and areas of possible cooperation," Prince Al Sa'ud said.

Head of the religious department for Asia Minor and Kazakhstan Muslims Sheikh Mohammad Sadiq has welcomed the initiative of the custodian of the two holy mosques to grant former Soviet Muslim republics one million copies of the Holy Koran and lauded the monarch's hosting of their pilgrims for two pilgrimage seasons, at his own expense.

During a visit by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince al-Faysal Al Sa'ud to the department on Thursday [21 February], Sheikh Sadiq pointed to the need of Muslims in this part of the world for the moral and financial support of their Muslim brothers.

He said after the independence of the former Soviet Muslim republics, the department's activities were boosted, as it built mosque and institutes and started publishing religious books translated into the national languages of these republics.

Sheikh Sadiq asked Prince Al Sa'ud to convey the appreciation, greetings and gratitude of Muslims in this part of the world to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He also thanked all Islamic institutions that helped support Muslims in the independent republics, especially the Muslim World League, the International Islamic Relief Organization and Saudi universities.

He described the visit of Prince Al Sa'ud as historic and blessed for the sake of Islam and Muslims, especially following the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

Later in the day, Prince Al Sa'ud visited the historic mosque of Tala Sheikh in Tashkent and saw the rare Islamic manuscripts kept in the mosque.

On Thursday evening, Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov hosted a dinner banquet in honour of Prince Al Sa'ud and his accompanying delegation. It was attended by Tashkent mayor, Adham Fadil and several senior officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Uzbek foreign minister expressed his pride in establishing diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and his country and hailed it as the start of developing and consolidating strong bilateral ties in all fields.

He asked Prince Al Sa'ud to convey the greetings of the people and government of Uzbekistan to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud as well as their wishes of more success for the monarch.

He also asked that the warmest greetings of the people of Uzbekistan be conveyed to the people of Saudi Arabia.

Prince Al Sa'ud thanked his Uzbek counterpart for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to them and expressed his opinion that King Fahd's message to President Karimov has restored contacts between the two countries, severed centuries ago.

He also expressed his hope that relations between the two countries would be enhanced through exchanged visits and direct contacts between the peoples of the two countries, especially following the establishment of diplomatic ties.

"We want this people to know that a Muslim people in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands behind them and will support and bolster them in this important stage of the development of Uzbekistan," he stressed

Diplomatic Relations Established With Israel

LD2402114592 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0300 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] An official ceremony marking the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State of Israel was held in Tashkent. The Israeli ambassador to Moscow came to Tashkent for the ceremony. He was received by the leaders of the republic and also held talks with Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdurazzaqov and with Fazylbekov, the governor [hakim] of Tashkent.

The question of opening an Israeli Embassy in the former USSR was examined. The residences allocated to the diplomats and questions concerning provision of the conditions for their work were discussed. Within a short period the building for the embassy will be allocated.

This event is not only in the interests of Uzbekistan and Israel but it is of great importance to the countries of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan.

Speaking about the establishment of relations between the two countries, discussions also took place on the development of direct contacts in the economic, scientific, and cultural spheres and activities serving the interest of both countries. There was talk of cooperation between Israeli firms and Uzbekistan. The present cooperation in agriculture, public health, and ecology has brought results.

European Development Bank Delegation Visits

LD1602072192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development headed by its vice president, Miklos Nemeth, has visited Uzbekistan. The visitors held talks and consultations in connection with the Republic's intention to become one of the founders of the bank.

The prime minister of Uzbekistan has already signed the official appeal of the Republic's government, containing a request for Uzbekistan's membership in that international organisation.

Meets With Prime Minister

OW1502181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Membership in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will help lead Uzbekistan out of the economic crisis, Uzbek Prime Minister Mutalov stated on Friday [21 February] during the talks with this bank's delegation, led by its vice-president Miklos Nemeth Mr. Nemeth said in his turn that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development attached special importance to the promising Central-Asian region and expressed confidence that Uzbekistan would become a member of the European Bank.

Ethnic Ukrainian Appointed Uzbek Vice Premier

PM1802161592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report: "Ukrainian as Uzbek Vice Premier"]

[Text] Tashkent—Uzbek President I. Karimov published a decree 13 February appointing the Ukrainian Anatoliy Voznenko as deputy prime minister of the republic.

The new vice premier comes from Zaporozhye and is a graduate of the Dnepropetrovsk Chemical and Technological Institute. He is 41.

He voluntarily moved to Fergana in 1986 and has been working as chief engineer at the "Azot" Production Association.

Along with Ukrainian and Russian he also also speaks Uzbek.

Azerbaijan

People's Front Calls for Government To Resign

OW2402212392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the People's Front of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Aliyev said that 12% of the republic's territory is in the hands of the military, that is units of the CIS Armed Forces are stationed there. According to Aliyev this creates the basis for interference from Moscow and the Army of the former center in Azerbaijan's affairs.

Speaking at a press conference in Baku Monday [24 February] Aliyev stated that in the last few days Armenia has violated the national border and expanded military operations from Nagorno-Karabakh over the entire western portion of Azerbaijan. The leader of the People's Front says that the republic's government is demonstrating passivity and inactivity in not taking actions to defend the civilian population in conflict zones. He again demanded the resignation of the republic's government, including the president.

Aliyev also reported that in the 4 years of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict 1,158 Azeris have been killed, 1,122 wounded and 37 populated areas burned or wiped from the face of the earth. The Armenians have launched 2,570 attacks on populated areas of Azerbaijan.

Majlis Demands Mutalibov Resign

LD1702205292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] According to INTERFAX, the Majlis of the opposition People's Front of Azerbaijan has demanded the resignation of President Ayaz Mutalibov and all the structures of executive power. The resignation demand has been put forward in connection with the failure to adopt efficient measures for protecting the Azerbaijani population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

President To Support 'Any Proposal' for Peace

OW2402220092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov has said that he appreciates all mediatory efforts aimed at settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Speaking at his meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in Baku, President Mutalibov said that from the first days of the conflict he counted on a peace settlement, something the Armenian side has been reluctant to do. President Mutalibov stressed his readiness to support any proposal for a peace settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The president said that he would build his relations with all countries of the world irrespective of the faith of their peoples.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered to President Mutalibov a personal message from King Fahd containing an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia any time the Azeri leader would find fit.

Mutalibov Receives Telegram on UN Admission

LD2202210192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The press center of the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry announced today that a telegram has been received from UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, addressed to President Mutalibov. The telegram says that the Security Council has unanimously decided to recommend that the UN General Assembly admit the Republic of Azerbaijan to the community of nations. Our correspondent Azer Khalilov:

[Khalilov] The telegram says: It is with great satisfaction that we look forward to the day when Azerbaijan becomes a member of the United Nations. Butrus Ghali also expressed the hope that Azerbaijan will be true to its undertakings to be guided by the principles of the UN Charter and will work to settle conflicts in a peaceful manner. He also congratulated Azerbaijan on this historic event, on behalf of the Security Council. To remind you: Azerbaijan's admission to UN membership is planned for 28 February this year. [passage omitted]

President Views Cooperation With French Group

LD2202133192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0302 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On 21 February Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov received the visiting French delegation headed by Bernard Kouchner, state secretary for international affairs and humanitarian actions of the Republic of France. After greeting the guests warmly and sincerely, Ayaz Mutalibov said that in a recent meeting in (?August) with His Excellency Bernard Kouchner, a healthy foundation was laid in development of relations between Azerbaijan and France at the state level. The meeting proved that our positions are compatible from many points of views. The president stressed that the honorable guest's visit to Azerbaijan will be a continuation of the positive dialogue which was started in Switzerland. Ayaz Mutalibov assessed highly the intention of France to mediate in order to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said: We will support such an effort by any country.

The French guest once again confirmed that his country showed much interest in Azerbaijan and was determined to establish ties with it as a sovereign country at all levels. Bernard Kouchner said: As far as the problem of Karabakh is concerned, we believe that we can express our view on Nagorno-Karabakh only after we see eveything in Nagorno-Karabakh with our own eyes. For this reason we plan to go to the disputed area.

Participating in the meeting were Mitat Abbasov, state secretary of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Ziyad Samedzade, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet.

Mutalibov Meets Turkey's Ozal at ECO Summit

NC1802121792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] As reported earlier, President Mutalibov has flown to the Islamic Republic of Iran leading a delegation to the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit in Tehran. Rasim Agayev, head of the presidential press office, has informed us by telephone from Tehran that the ECO summit began on 16 February. The presidents of Iran and Turkey, the prime minister of Pakistan, and delegations from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are participating in the meeting. Delegations from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are taking part as observers.

President Mutalibov met with President Turgut Ozal before the summit began. They discussed further improving economic and cultural relations. The ECO summit began in the afternoon in the conference hall of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Turgut Ozal lauded the increase in the number of ECO members, meaning Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. President Turgut Ozal described the meeting as historic from the point of view of ECO's restructuring. President Mutalibov's speech was heard with interest. He noted in particular that merging Azerbaijan's economy with the international economic system is very important for the republic and he said that Azerbaijan is prepared to cooperate with ECO members in power generation, transportation, trade, financing, and other fields.

Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov also participated in the meeting. The summit is continuing its work today.

Relations Established With Austria, Belgium

NC2202120092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Austria and Azerbaijan have established diplomatic relations. A statement by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that a protocol for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by Friedrich Bauer, Austria's ambassador in Moscow, and Rustem-zade, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in the Russian capital, on the evening of 21 February.

Belgium and Azerbaijan have also signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations. The agreement was signed by Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov, who is visiting Brussels, and Mark Eyskens, Belgian minister of foreign affairs. The two countries have decided to exchange diplomatic representatives. [passage omitted]

Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Detailed

LD2402153392 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—This morning the servicemen of the 366th Motorised Rifle Regiment and residents of Stepanakert (Khankendy) continued to clear the rubble following Sunday's [23 February] massive shelling from the direction of the Azerbaijani town of Shusha.

The deplorable outcome of the bombardment has been summed up, a spokesman for the Nagorno-Karabakh National Security Service, told ITAR-TASS.

During the shelling, 145 rockets from the Grad area-fire artillery system, 14 T-12 projectiles and five Alazan missiles were fired on the city. Six civilians were killed and 35 wounded.

Two servicemen of the regiment, which was fired upon by Grad systems twice, have died. Eight servicemen were wounded and two of them are on the verge of death.

This has been reported to Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

A spokesman for the Nagorno-Karabakh Department for Internal Affairs pointed out that the regiment's personnel had openly expressed discontent over the actions of the commanders who stick to neutrality at a time when Azerbaijani units fire not only on the local population but also on servicemen who do not get involved in the conflict. Officers and men only help residents of Stepanakert (Khankendy) to put out fires, clear the rubble, rescue the wounded and extract dead bodies from under the rubble.

According to preliminary data, self defence forces managed to neutralise a weapon emplacement near Shusha. The night of Sunday to Monday [24 February] was relatively calm in Nagorno-Karabakh.

An Armenian Defence Ministry Spokesman, in an ITAR-TASS interview, denied a report that Armenia launched a large-scale combat operation against Azerbaijan. The Republic's Defence Ministry issued a statement which reads in particular: "Such disinformation is being resorted to for the purpose of diverting the attention of the public from Azerbaijan's policy of direct annihilation of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and with a view to continuing actions to seize weapons and equipment from units of the former Soviet Army".

A report that Armenia ostensibly launched combat operations were circulated on Saturday [22 February] by REUTER and FRANCE PRESSE with reference to the INTERFAX NEWS AGENCY, the Azerbaijani ASSA-IRADA NEWS AGENCY and the Press Service of the President of Azerbaijan. The news agencies quoted Ayaz Mutalibov as referring to an alleged operation as a "veritable aggression being committed with the support of the military command of the former USSR."

The Armenian Defence Ministry expressed concern over a massive seizure of up-to-date weapons in Azerbaijan. Over the past several days, the statement points out, Azerbaijani armed formations seized another three Grad installations from the CIS Army, as well as a squadron of helicopter gunships, and a large amount of guns and equipment, which the Azerbaijani Army immediately put to use.

The Armenian Defence Ministry urged the command of the CIS joint armed forces "to take immediate measures to prevent a seizure of CIS armaments and equipment by Azerbaijan or a transfer of these to it, to neutralise area-fire artillery systems being used against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and avert an uncontrolled expansion of the conflict".

The Armenian Defence Ministry believes that "the above-mentioned escalation of military actions by the Azerbaijani side is being synchronised with the actions of the Turkish Army with an eye to expanding the geography of the conflict".

Information as to the launch of combat operations, ostensibly involving the personnel and hardware of units that are part of the troops of the Transcaucasian Military District, does not correspond to facts, a spokesman at the general staff of the CIS joint Armed Forces told ITAR-TASS in view of reports about an alleged start of a large-scale offensive on the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenian troops with the support of CIS military units.

The leadership of the CIS joint Armed Forces adheres to a policy of non-involvement in inter-ethnic conflicts, the spokesman said.

Government To Leave Stepanakert

LD2402221692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] It has been decided to evacuate the government bodies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic from Stepanakert. According to the Russian Information Agency, the decision is due to constant shelling, which has caused serious fires and damage to the Supreme Soviet building in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nonintervention Questioned

LD2402205392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A Russian soldier died in Nagorno-Karabakh today, and two people are in a serious condition. Bad weather is making it impossible to remove the injured by helicopter. Mikhail Zotov, our correspondent in Stepanakert-Khankendy, reports.

Mikhayl does not have the technical facilities to transmit a report to us, so our commentator has attempted to reconstruct the picture of what is going on in Nagorno-Karabakh on the basis of all the information arriving in Moscow.

The INTERFAX agency, citing the Azerbaijan Interior Ministry, is today reporting a rocket and artillery bombardment of the cities of Shusha and Khodzhaly. The Azerbaijanis, just like the Armenians, are accusing the enemy of using Grad rocket launchers. They say that 100 high-explosive fragmentation missile shells have been launched on Shusha. There are dead and wounded.

Armenians sources report that 150 shells were launched against Stepanakert. Victims are also reported.

The 366th Motorized Artillery Regiment, stationed in Stepanakert, was shelled yesterday by a Grad rocket launcher. Eight servicemen received injuries and two died. A group of officers from the regiment demanded that the Russian Government institute criminal proceedings against those who opened fire and are guilty of the murder of Russian servicemen.

The personnel of the regiment expressed open dissatisfaction with the commanders who are observing neutrality at a time when Azerbaijan units are shooting not only at the civilian population but also at servicemen who are not intervening in the conflict.

However, who will guarantee that the policy of nonintervention in interethnic conflicts will not be shaken by an unpredictable escalation of military action and the seizure en masse of modern weapons?

In any event, if the smell of burning powder has completely dispelled the taste for compromise among the warring sides, what about the lives of Russian soldiers who have found themselves in the crossfire? Meanwhile, the officers and soldiers of the regiment have started to collect money to help the families of those who have died.

Troops Told To 'Suppress Fire'

LD2402163892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1930 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Feb (TASS)—Subunits of the Transcaucasus Military District deployed in the zone of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict received the order to suppress fire in the event of shelling by the opposing sides, the district's headquarters told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. The district command adopted such a forced measure despite its strict neutrality after yesterday's shelling by Azerbaijani formations of the base of the 366th motorized rifle regiment billeted in Stepanakert (Khankendy), the administrative center of Nagorno-Karabakh. The headquarters reported that rocket missiles were launched against it on three occasions throughout the day from a Grad multiple rocket launcher [ustanovka grad].

The command evaluates the unprovoked shelling and attacks on military units in this region as an attempt to involve the military in the escalation of the conflict between the neighboring republics. In this connection, it protests resolutely against reports that have appeared in Russia's mass media alleging that the 4th and 7th Armies of the district, the headquarters of which are located in Baku and Yerevan respectively, are fighting against each other on the side of Azerbaijan or Armenia. "The administration of units and subunits of the district, down to individual companies, is being effected precisely and continuously under the permanent supervision of the command," the headquarters of the Transcaucasus military district reported.

Soldiers, Families Taken Hostage

LD2402191292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1810 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (TASS)—Another rocket and artillery bombardment of Stepanakert began this evening. According to a report from the Nagorno-Karabakh internal affairs directorate, one salvo of 38 shells from a "Grad" launcher was fired on the city from the Azerbaijani village of Dzhangasan at 1900. The city again suffered damage; there are fires and human casualties.

It was learned today that a salvo from a "Grad" launcher was also fired at the rayon center of Martuni yesterday evening from Fizulinskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan. There were casualties there, too.

The Nagorno-Karabakh internal affairs directorate is also receiving alarming reports that military depots of the Transcaucasian Military District were seized and seven servicemen and members of their families taken hostage last night in the Azerbaijani town of Agdam, which borders on the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. According to the same reports, a total of 8,000 tonnes of weapons and ammunition was stored in the Agdam depots.

Spokesman on Shaposhnikov, Starovoytova Remarks

LD2102193792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Mutalibov's press secretary today considered it necessary to respond to the statements of Shaposhnikov and Starovoytova regarding the peacekeeping role of third countries in Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Begin R. Musabayev, adviser to the Azerbaijani president, recording] As far as forces of a strategic designation are concerned, Azerbaijan is prepared to have them on its territory, in compliance with this accord. As far as armed forces of a general designation are concerned, all of them must be either withdrawn or transferred to the jurisdiction of the Azerbaijani Republic. Peacekeeping forces can only be employed at the direct invitation of the Azerbaijani Government. [end recording]

Officers Stationed in Baku Vow To Keep Arms

PM1802150092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Baku under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Calm at Sea, But on Land—a 'Storm'"]

[Text] At the S.M. Kirov Caspian Higher Naval School officers and teaching staff had a meeting with T. Karayev, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic Supreme Soviet. There was only one question—what will become of one of the most senior naval educational establishments, which has been training highly skilled specialists for the navy for more than half a century? T. Karayev assured those present that provided that the school trains the military personnel that Azerbaijan needs and the officers act on the basis of Azerbaijan's interests, the republic will create the necessary conditions for the existence of the educational establishment and the organization of studies there.

S. Yanin, staffer of the CIS Armed Forces Center for Military Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Studies, has returned from a motorized infantry division stationed in Baku.

"According to data from the poll that was carried out," he stated, "the majority of officers are very determined, they do not want to hand over their weapons and combat hardware, and in the event of the disbandment of units and the nationalization of the army they intend to 'break through' to Russia. They justify this decision by saying that with weapons they can defend themselves and their families in case of necessity."

For the time being, armed posts have been set up on the roofs of the military camp. The windows on the first three stories of the barracks are blocked with sandbags.

Military Transfer Denied; Baku Recalls Troops

LD2402143692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Transcaucasian District Military Council has examined the results of the talks with Azerbaijani representatives on the transfer of some units under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan. The talks were attended by a delegation of the unified Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The members of the council came to the conclusion that this cannot be done until there is a political solution to the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh waged by Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia. The Transcaucasian District Military Council informed the Commonwealth Supreme Military Command and the Russian president of its position.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1300 GMT on 24 February reports that "Azerbaijan is recalling Azerbaijani soldiers to the motherland to continue service. According to information from RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY, telegrams have been received in garrisons situated on the territory of Kyrgyzstan."]

State To Control Part of Caspian Sea Flotilla

LD2302180492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1124 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Baku—The commander of the Caspian Flotilla, Rear Admiral Boris Zinin: The mechanism of transferring the Caspian Flotilla under Azerbaijan's subordination is being worked out by a conciliatory commission. In accordance with the February 18 1992 agreement between Navy Commander Vladimir Chernavin and Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov, Rear Admiral Zinin told PF [POSTFACTUM], handing over part of the flotilla forces and equipment may start next week. The ships remaining with the flotilla are expected to be transferred to other ports on the Caspian Sea, which does not presuppose Astrakhan, Krasnovodsk and Makhachkala. The deputy department head at the Caspian Higher Navy School named after S.M. Kirov, second-rank Captain Mirza Mirzoyev told PF: To protect the interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan at sea, a navy base is planned to be formed with 24 combat and 49 ancillary ships to be attached to it. According to Mirzoyev, the Navy school, which is now, on a contractual basis, training cadres, for the CIS, foreign countries and Azerbaijan, will be put in future under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan.

National Aerospace Agency Established

LD2402001492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0849 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent Natan Barskiy]

[Text] Baku, 23 Feb (AZERINFORM-TASS)—A national aerospace agency has been set up in Azerbaijan. The decree by the president of the republic notes that it has been organized with a view to implementing state policy in the sphere of opening up space, to developing and implementing national aerospace programs, and to coordinating work on international space projects carried out jointly with other states. The agency has been set up to make effective use of the available scientific and production potential in the interests of the national economy and the security of the republic.

The agency is based on the space research scientific and production association operating in Baku and is subordinate to the president of Azerbaijan, the document reports. It is entrusted with managing the research being carried out in the republic in this sphere, with developing aviation and space technology, with aviation and space services entry into the world market, and with the training and retraining of specialists.

Decree Issued on Creating National Bank

LD1402161792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0302 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The president of the Republic of Azerbaijan has issued a decree on creating the National Bank of Azerbaijan. The decree says:

In accordance with the constitutional law of the republic on principles of the economic independence of the Repulic of Azerbaijan, and according to the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan on additional measures in the sphere of stablizing the economic, social, and political life of the republic, I decree:

1. A National Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan be created on the basis of the State Bank and Azerbaijan Banks of the former USSR Bank of Industry and Construction and the USSR Agro-Industrial Bank, and that the assets and liabilities of the previous banks until 1 January 1992 shall be given to the National Bank.

2. Galib Agabala ogly Agayev shall be appointed president of the National Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

3. Galib Agayev is instructed to work out the draft regulations of the National Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan within one month and submit it accoording to the set rules to the Republic of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet National Council.

4. This decree shall take effect immediately upon publication.

Unions To Ease Transition to Market Economy

NC2002103892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Council of Trade Unions has examined matters related to removing social and economic problems and to safeguarding the interests of the republic's work collectives and citizens during the transition to a market economy. Field trade union committees' republic level council heads and representatives of the Azerbaijan Committee for Work and Social Affairs attended the meeting, which was opened by Aga Guseynov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Trade Unions. He said that the struggle to enact legislation giving workers and all citizens legal and social guarantees is a very important trade union activity.

Kasumova, work and social affairs committee chairwoman, and other speakers supported a joint effort to draw up ways and means of safeguarding workers' interests. Participants at the meeting debated and approved concrete measures for the joint work.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Intensify Rail Attacks

LD2402133192 Moscow TASS in English
1211 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishviliy and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 24 TASS—Tensions in Abkhazia reached new highs in the past few days as Georgian Government troops withdrew from the area and militants, loyal to ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia intensified their attacks on the railroad, linking Tbilisi and Moscow.

Nine explosions rocked rail tracks between Tsatskhivi and Ingiri on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia in the past 24 hours. Repair teams had hardly restored a bridge on a section between Dranda and Kelasuri, when a bomb destroyed a bridge near Adzyubzha station.

A total of 13 subversive attacks have been carried out since the beginning of the year in Abkhazia, Mamuli Kuknadze, transport service chief of the Transcaucasian railroad, told TASS. As a result more than 10 kilometers of tracks have been destroyed. Traffic on the railway's northern section remains paralyzed, Kiknadze said. The republic is unable to bring in food, fuel, medicines and other supplies, vital for Georgia.

Neighboring Armenia is also in dire straits and is receiving supplies by air.

Chechen 'Terrorists' Said Planning Sabotage

LD2502101492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0615 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Correspondent Nana Gongadze report from Tbilisi]

[Excerpts] Good morning. It was exactly 71 years ago on 25 February that the Bolshevik army occupied the Democratic Republic of Georgia. [passage omitted]

History is being rewritten yet again and hopefully truth will triumph. It is snowing here nonstop for the fourth day in a row. Fuel and power supplies have been disrupted. It is freezing both at home and at work and the town's transportation is having difficulties. People are pinning all their hopes on the underground system which, however, is also affected by the power shortage. There has been an accident on the [name indistinct] line; two trains collided due to the failure of a light signal. A driver and three passengers were affected, but luckily nobody was killed. Traffic has resumed.

Gamsakhurdia's double is in Sukhumi. This was reported yesterday on the local television by Militia Commandant [name indistinct]. He also reported that a detachment of terrorists from the Chechen Republic had been sent to Georgia. Twelve Chechens and eight Georgians—trained by Dudayev's special detachments—plan to carry out sabotage and terrorist actions in Georgia. Supporters of the ex-president decided to hold a rally in Station Square today. The commandant warned the town's residents about possible excesses since it is known that armed people may attend the rally. The rally was banned, and military authorities warned that the most severe measures would be applied to people violating the special regime. [passage omitted]

Meetings, Demonstrations Banned in Senaki

OW2402204292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As of February 24, all public meetings and demonstrations are banned in the city of Senaki (western Georgia), the Commandant of the city, Kakha Khositashvili, told Interfax.

The press center of the Military council told Interfax that Sunday [23 February] another demonstration in support of Gamsakhurdia was held in Senaki. The rumor that the ousted president is in the city circulated among the demonstrators; however, he did not show at the meeting.

The press center also said that more police divisions were added to the villages of Senaki and Zugdidi, where support for Gamsakhurdia is strong.

Local Officials Discuss 'Anarchy' in Zugdidi

AU2402150592 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Statement issued by the Zugdidi Coordinating Council of Political Organizations in Zugdidi on 14 February; introduction by SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA correspondent Gia Erkvania: "Zugdidi Demands Attention!"]

[Text]

The Most Aggressively-Minded Groups of Supporters of the Former Government Are Calling Upon Zugdidians To Continue the Strikes! The People Are in a State of Uncertainty, Are Hesitant, and Afraid Zugdidi and its inhabitants have suffered considerably in recent days. A tense situation has been created in the town. Armed or unarmed groups have robbed and laid waste to Zugdidi's prefecture and the "Odishi" Hotel, have blown up Zugdidi's TV antenna and have destroyed buildings in the town and valuables contained inside them. Telephone communications inside the town and with other towns

have not yet been restored. Criminal groups have become more brazen and have been attacking different organizations and robbing families.

Following the entry into the town of the Georgian National Guard, the situation became calmer but, during the last few days, it has again become tense, and criminal elements have again become active.

The situation has become so complex that multistorey houses have no water and heating, enterprises and institutions are not functioning, there is no press, bakeries are not working to full capacity, there are transport disruptions due to the fuel shortage, and so forth.

In a word, there is much that needs to be put right in Zugdidi and in the rayon. The Zugdidi Coordinating Council of Political Organizations was put in charge of the situation that has taken shape precisely there. It recently discussed the situation that has been created in the rayon and adopted a statement whose text we now propose to you.

Regarding the serious political, economic, and particularly social situation that has taken shape in Zugdidi, the Zugdidi Coordinating Council of Political Organizations feels obliged to state the following:

The calm that reigns in Zugdidi is deceptive. The burning down of the Zugdidi TV station by those who are hostile toward the provisional government has placed the whole region under an information blockade. Only a tiny fraction of the population has the means to receive Georgian TV programs through hastily constructed antennas. To this one can add the fact that, for one month and a half, subscribers have not received republican papers. For over a month, not a single copy of the local paper ODISHI has been published. As a result of all this, Zugdidi and particularly the villages have found themselves the captives of political rumors, something which of course makes the situation more tense.

For more than a month and a half, all the industrial enterprises and establishments in Zugdidi have been at a standstill. The overwhelming majority of the population feels this painfully as the tiny savings that they were able to use to feed their families while unemployed have been exhausted, given the doubling of prices, and they are now faced with the danger of starvation. In the meantime, the most aggressively-minded groups of supporters of the former government are calling upon Zugdidians to continue the strikes. In the event of their abandoning strike action, they are being threatened with the label of traitors of the nation. The people are in a state of uncertainty and are hesitant and afraid. They have grounds to feel that way as there were calls at the rallies for reprisals against political opponents (the burning down and pillaging of the homes of the opposition). Home-made bombs have been thrown into the homes of some of them. Fortunately, no one has been injured.

The situation in Zugdidi and in the whole region is being made tense particularly by the fact that, as a result of the information blockade, the population is poorly informed concerning the step that the provisional government has been obliged to take, a step that is nevertheless wholly correct, namely the necessity of raising the price of bread. Consequently, the dissatisfaction aroused by this economic step is entirely natural. To this we can add the fact that only a very small part of the population knows that wages are being increased twofold and that each person is to be given 40 rubles to compensate for the bread price increase.

The complete anarchy in the sphere of the supply and trade of bread products is arousing the indignation of Zugdidians. The wholly irregular supply of electric power to the bread factory and bakeries is hampering the supply of bread to the population.

In addition to all this, Zugdidians are feeling justifiably angry because of the unbridled actions of certain dishonorable soldiers who have attached themselves to the National Guard and the "Mkhedrioni" ["Horsemen"—paramilitary group acting under the aegis of the Military Council], actions that are disgracing the name of these formations.

Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Guram Gunava, the plenipotentiary in Zugdidi appointed by the Military Council, to whom the coordinating council is showing loyalty, is often not in control of the situation. Transport is not functioning to this day because of a lack of fuel.

The militia is almost ineffective. The reason given for this by the militia workers themselves is the fact that they do not have the necessary equipment (bulletproof vests and automatic weapons), whereas the criminals are armed to the teeth. At the same time, a large number of the militia workers, fearful of arousing the anger of the supporters of the former president, are shirking the fulfillment of their duties. In the meantime the criminals, who have become more brazen knowing that they can act with impunity, are pillaging the bread combine and bakeries and stealing flour and fuel. Almost all the enterprises and establishments in Zugdidi have been robbed. The robbers are taking everything from expensive computers to school desks.

In a word, the situation is extremely tense. At such a time, the information supplied to Georgian TV from Zugdidi that the enterprises and establishments in the town are functioning and have resumed their normal rhythm of work does not correspond to reality, to say the least, and is arousing the opposite reaction.

Taking into account all the aforementioned, the Zugdidi Coordinating Council of Political Organizations believes that for the situation to become completely stable and for the normal rhythm of life to be restored, it is essential that the Zugdidi militia be immediately provided with the necessary equipment so that it can function most effectively.

In those villages where the sakrebulos ["assemblies"—local organs of government] are not functioning, it is essential that village congresses be immediately convened with government representatives in attendance and temporary village leaders be elected, otherwise we will not be able to avoid the danger awaiting us in the event of the spring agricultural work being ruined. If we do not want to starve, we must put an end to the anarchy that reigns in the villages of the rayon.

At the first opportunity, the units of the National Guard and the "Mkhedrioni" must be withdrawn from Zugdidi and cadets from the militia higher school introduced in their place to restore order in the town and the rayon and to combat crime.

[Signed] On behalf of the Zugdidi Coordinating Council of Political Organizations: K. Tabaghua, A. Tughushi, B. Gunava, M. Shelia, D. Antia, B. Kardava, V. Chachua, U. Shelia, M. Makatsaria, B. Jikia, J. Naqopia, K. Jikia. [Issued] 14 February 1992.

Political Situation 'Normal'

AU2502092492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Yesterday Zugdidi's deputy military commander stated that the political situation in the town remains normal. There have been no rallies (?for a number of) days. [passage indistinct]

The town is suffering greatly from a lack of electric power and fuel. Enterprises are at a standstill with the exception of the bread combine, hospital, communications network, and other vitally important installations. The town's population is receiving sufficient supplies of bread, but people in the villages are suffering from a shortage of bread. [passage indistinct]

Sigua on Elections, Relations With Russia

LD2102152892 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 21 TASS—Although head of the Georgian Provisional Government Tengiz Sigua, 57, has announced his firm decision not to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, after which he will leave the political scene, he intends to keep the power until it is passed over to the new cabinet of ministers.

Six political parties have been registered in the republic, another 12 have applied for legitimization, all in all, up to 30 parties are expected to participate in the elections, Sigua told ITAR-TASS.

The prime minister believes none of the parties will be able to gain the parliamentary majority under current social and political conditions, that is why they are likely to unite in blocs. So, he is rather skeptical about the possibilities of supporters of overthrown Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Sigua described as not corresponding to the reality reports of some Russian mass media on the Georgian developments, including the sending of "a legion of Russian volunteers to protect the Russian southern boundaries" to southern Ossetia. In his opinion, "anti-democratic forces are thus trying to destabilize the situation in the republic and make the peoples of Georgia and Russia quarrel".

Speaking of general relations with Russia, the Georgian premier accepted Georgia has some contradictions with the northern neighbour, as far as economic issues are concerned. This includes, in particular, the sides' approaches towards mutual payments on goods turnover.

Georgia is interested in the use of the ruble equivalent, and Russia insists on clearing payments at world prices. At the same time, Sigua expressed the hope the partners will meet the interests of the republic.

The provisional government head believes foreign capital "injections" will be needed to enable Georgian economy overcome the crisis. In his words, the amount of foreign credits and investments may top 350 million U.S. dollars.

Georgia will use them in the first turn to develop agricultural processing industries, where it is possible to gain quick results, and sell finished products at the world market. This primarily concerns natural fruit juices and other canned products, as well as mineral and spring waters, which are in constant foreign demand.

Council Extends Invitation to Shevardnadze

LD2402154992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] A parliamentary republic will be the most suitable state ruling system for Georgia. This has been announced by Dzhaba Ioseliani, one of the leaders of the Georgian Military Council now in rule in that republic. Speaking to journalists, he said it should be a parliament of politicians sincerely interested in the observation of all democratic norms. According to him, the parties and organizations currently entering the political consultative committee often diverge in opinions. They express their firm belief, however, that there would be no serious differences on Georgia's democratic future.

Mr. Ioseliani said the new Georgian authorities had invited former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who, apart from being highly respected for his international authority, was proving not in words but in actions his loyalty to the cause of Georgia's revival.

Comments Cause Bewilderment

LD2202235992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1545 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Commentary by IPRINDA news agency correspondent Zurab Dvali from Tbilisi]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] When he returned from Moscow after the meeting of heads of the CIS, Tengiz Sigua gave an interview to MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in which he spoke unflatteringly about Eduard Shevardnadze's activities in Georgia. This caused bewilderment, to say the least, among the public for no one expected such opinions from the prime minister, who is distinguished for his restraint and for his good relations with the former USSR foreign minister. They saw in this the danger of a deterioration of relations with Eduard Shevardnadze, whose support and prestige is of considerable importance for the republic.

In spite of this, in his meeting with Baker on 17 February Eduard Shevardnadze gave a positive assessment of the processes taking place in Georgia and of the prime minister of the republic personally. As IPRINDA agency has learned, Sigua had a telephone conversation with Eduard Amvrosiyevich on 18 February. During this conversation, one may hope, the incident over the interview with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI was exhausted.

On the same day, Tengiz Sigua sat down for talks with James Baker. It may well be that it was precisely at this meeting that the foundations were laid for Georgia to emerge from international political isolation.

Zurab Dvali of the IPRINDA independent information agency especially for Mayak.

Military Council Restores 1921 Constitution

LD2302201292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1444 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Georgia, the military council has restored the constitution of the republic from 1921. That means that once again Georgia has been declared an indivisible state with the Georgian language as the state language. A single state is being introduced which does not envisage the possiblity of simultaneously preserving citizenship in any other country, POSTFACTUM reports.

Constitution Restoring 'Harmony'

OW2302101892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Party for Georgian Independence Iraklii Tsereteli considers the reinstatement of the 1921 Constitution by a military council a step toward harmony in society. In an interview with INTERFAX Tsereteli said that this automatically brings "the succession of rights of the Georgian Democratic Republic which existed from 1918 to 1921". Then, however, the republic existed with completely different borders recognized by the League of Nations. The leader of the Party for National Independence does not recommend claiming previous territories from Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia, though he didn't rule out this possibility in the long run.

The problem of ethnic minorities may become a question following the restoration of the 1921 Constitution. The Constitution recognizes their rights but does not provide for the establishment of any autonomous regions in the republic. Therefore Tsereteli feels that certain areas of the Constitution should be re-worked, a project for the Georgian parliament.

'Civilized Approach' Taken Toward Soldiers

OW1402194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1653 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] In an interview with INTERFAX, the Deputy Commander of the Transcaucasian military district Lieutenant General Sufiyan Beppayev said Georgia's new government lost no time in showing a civilized approach toward servicemen. The General sees this as a big change from conditions under President Gamsakhurdia when Army officers and enlisted men were assaulted daily and a few were beaten up in Tbilisi. In General Beppayev's view, Georgia's old government fomented the negative feeling toward Army among civilians.

General Beppayev rejects ousted President Gamsakhurdia's allegations that the Army took part in the December and January events in Tbilisi. He stressed that despite requests for help from both factions in the Georgian conflict, the military took no sides and rendered no assistance to the opposition. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Russian Troop Presence, Bases Described

PM2502123092 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 23 Feb 92 p A9

[Report by Mert Kubu: "'Russian Bases Stay'"]

[Text] Tallinn—Bases to stay in the Baltic region. That is expected to be one of the Russian military's demands in future negotiations with the Estonian government, DAGENS NYHETER has been told. The Russians are primarily expected to want to keep the radar warning system along the Estonian coast and on Estonia's islands.

And probably also the large military air base near Tartu which is used by heavy long-range bombers.

Two other bases that the Russians would only give up reluctantly are Paldiski—hermetically sealed to Estonians—and the missile launchers and attack aircraft in Haapsalu.

However, the Estonians' demand is very simple. The former Soviet troops must leave the country, and as quickly as possible. Ideally this year.

New Prime Minister Tiit Vahi declared this publicly most recently during U.S. Vice President Quayle's visit to the Baltic region.

Economic pressure is expected to be the weapon which the Russians will use in the negotiations. Contrary to what would appear to be the case from communiques, no agreements or even protocols of any significance have so far been reached. Nor have any precise Russian demands been made known.

Terms like "Russia's military security must remain unchanged" are being used.

The Estonian government's military policy advisers, who are taking part in the negotiations with the Russian delegation, told DAGENS NYHETER:

"Two weeks ago, in our latest count, there were 24,500 Russian soldiers in Estonia. These include 10,040 officers, most of them with families."

Throughout the Baltic region there are an estimated 125,000 former Soviet soldiers and officers, stationed at 804 units.

What makes checking on numbers difficult is the fact that at the same time as some troops are going home, soldiers are being secretly flown into Estonia on large transport planes.

However, the Estonian intelligence service has an excellent knowledge of where the Russian units are located. DAGENS NYHETER has been shown topographical maps showing the location of all Russian troops—air bases, missile bases, and practically every large-size bunker.

The following are the most important units:

Attack aircraft stand in readiness in Parnu, Haapsalu, and Tapa. There is also a missile base in Haapsalu, and two on Hiiumaa with their launchers targeted on Sweden and Norway. In the middle of Saaremaa an underground command center has been built.

The heavy bombers (including around 20 TU 22M Backfire bombers, among the world's largest, and AN-78 Antonov transport aircraft) are in Tartu. Around 10 km from Tartu, in Loonia, there is a depot where, in the past at least, nuclear warheads were stored.

The combat command center for the whole of the north of the Baltic region is a gigantic underground bunker city under Paaskula, a suburb of Tallinn. Around the capital three garrisons can be found in Klooga, Tondi, and Keila.

There is an advance warning system along the northern coast facing Finland, along the coast facing Sweden, and on the islands. Here the Russian border troops formerly under the control of the KGB are still in charge.

On the islands of Vaike Tutarsaar and Suur Tutarsaar there are missile bases. The missiles are targeted on Finland.

"The commanders on Suur Tutarsaar generally boast that in five minutes they could destroy half of Finland," one of the Estonians engaged in locating and identifying the troops said.

In Viljandi Spetsnaz troops, about whom much has been written, are trained and currently these troops number 340 men. Many of them speak excellent German. They have been trained for deployment in the former West Germany.

Paldiski is an exclusively Russian town of 10,000 inhabitants. No Estonians are admitted. The town has been the base for the repair of submarines. There are two practice reactors for submarine crews.

"This has become a major problem. The earth around the reactors is radioactive. No one knows how to rid the installation of the radioactivity. When we ask about it, the Russians simply shrug their shoulders and say that they do not know. We need international help," an Estonian colonel told DAGENS NYHETER.

[Kubu] What is discipline among the Russian troops like?

"Terrible," said the military expert. "At the Tartu Air Base officers have to stand guard at night. The soldiers are entirely without discipline. Many desert and go home. Others sell what can be sold. Gasoline, clothes, complete radio stations. However, so far no arms have been sold.

"Kaitseliit (the home guard) generally goes and buys from them."

[Kubu] How are Estonia's own defenses?

"We have our border guards (Piirivalve), the home guard, and we are also organizing a regular army based on conscription. At present 100 Estonian officers are on a further training course.

"Our problem is arms," the colonel said. "We hope to be able to buy them for rubles. Here Lithuania is ahead of us. They have already equipped several battalions.

[Kubu] What is happening to the former KGB officers?

"Few have gone home to Russia. The majority of them, who originally numbered over 1,000, are still here and have been given civilian jobs. The risk is of course that some of them could form a fifth column. But we are keeping an eye on them.

"We are more worried about the agents from GRU, the military intelligence service. They are here. But we do not know where they are, or who they are, or how many there are," the colonel said.

U.S. Grain Shipment Arrives at Tallinn Port

OW2002213892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1848 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 20, the American ship The Liberty Spirit carrying 50,000 tons [as received] of corn, called at the new Tallinn port. The ship brought the first lot of free aid from the U.S. At the beginning of March Tallinn will receive another 50,000 tons of American corn.

Last autumn, the U.S. government decided to supply each of the Baltic states with 100,000 tons of grain worth of total of 21 million dollars.

According to the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn, the ceremony of passing the grain to the addressee will be held on Saturday [22 February] morning. The ceremony will be attended by the U.S. ambassador to Estonia and by representatives of the Estonian foreign ministry.

The corn will be processed into fodder and sold to farmers. The money thus earned will be invested in private farming.

Soon, a European Community ship will bring 2,000 tons of wheat flour to Tallinn, for free.

Estonian Gas Enterprise To Become Joint Stock

LD2002222292 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] According to ETA the government of the Republic of Estonia decided today that the Estonian Gas state enterprise will become an international joint stock company with the participation of the Commonwealth of Independent States interstate Gasprom organization and a Western firm. At a news conference, Construction Minister Olari Taal said that with the formation of an international joint stock company it is hoped to obtain gas under favorable conditions. According to preliminary plans Gasprom will have 25 to 30 percent and the foreign firm will have 20 percent of the shares. According to Taal, firms of both Denmark and Norway have expressed an interest in participating in the joint stock company. Draft agreements for the setting up of the international joint stock company must be drawn up by [date indistinct] May.

Ruutel Discusses Oil With Kuwaiti Delegation

OW2002214292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1848 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 20, Chairman of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel received a Kuwaiti delegation led by Minister of Finance Nasir al-Ridan. The delegation consists of oil experts and representatives of state, financial and industrial organizations, and of the chamber of commerce. The leader of the delegation handed Arnold Ruutel a message from the Emir of Kuwait. The talks concentrated on Kuwaiti loans and oil suppiies to Estonia.

'Successful Attraction to Foreign Investment'

LD2002194692 Tallinn Estonian Television Network
in Estonian 1900 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Read by announcer]

[Text] Mehis Pilv, director general of the Republic of Estonia's Foreign Economics Department, told BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that despite tha fact that issues of land and immovable property ownership in Estonia are not politically resolved, investment in Estonia has been made by 1,500 foreign firms. This is more than in Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine together. This is a good indicator even against the background of the East European countries. The total amount of foreign investment as share capital of enterprises registered in Estonia exceeds $150 million. One can say that Estonia is the most successful attraction to foreign investment, says BALTIC NEWS SERVICE.

'Estonian Air Company' Sells Tickets Again

OW2002213992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1848 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 20, the Estonian Air Company re-started selling air tickets suspended a few weeks ago because of fuel shortages. The 800 tons [as received] of fuel which will last for 2 months had been purchased at a price ten times higher than the previous price. Beginning March 1 flights from Tallinn will be made according to the following schedule:

Moscow—2 flights a day (1,645 roubles for a ticket). The old price—212 roubles.

Minsk—4 flights a week (1,160 roubles);

Kiev—5 flights a week (1,930 roubles);

St. Petersburg—3 flights a week (720 roubles);

Kuresaare, the island of Saarema—daily (270 roubles);

Kardla, the island of Iiijumaa—daily (220—roubles);

Budapest—1 flight a week (5,050 roubles);

Frankfurt/Main—1 flight a week (6,000 roubles);

Helsinki—6 flights a week (1,250 roubles);

Stockholm—3 flights a week (2,950 roubles).

No Customs Duties in Trade With Finland

PM2102104192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 2

["Own Information" report under general heading "In One Paragraph"]

[Text] Tallinn—Estonian-Finnish trade will proceed without customs duties. That is stated in the treaty signed by the two countries' prime ministers. But the trade treaty is of a temporary nature since in the next few years Finland may be admitted to the EC. And then its mutual relations with Estonia will depend on the latter's mutual relations with the EC. Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho spoke of the intention to sign similar agreements with the governments of Latvia and Lithuania.

Russian Diplomatic Relations 'Bogged Down'

LD2502061492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Artur Kuznetsov was appointed Russian ambassador to Estonia by Boris Yeltsin's decree, but Kuznetsov finds that the development of Estonian-Russian diplomatic relations is bogged down by the Estonian Foreign Ministry's failure to produce its position on the appointment. The Estonian Foreign Ministry has so far not given its consent on Kuznetsov's appointment as ambassador. The conflict about Artur Kuznetsov's appointment arose largely because the Russian Foreign Ministry asked for Estonia's consent only after Yeltsin's resolution on Kuznetsov's appointment was published.

Chinese Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD2102195492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] A couple of days ago Xiao Zhonggui, ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Estonia, arrived in Tallinn. Yesterday he handed over his credentials to Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council. Today the Chinese ambassador will have a meeting with Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

Yesterday the Estonian Government endorsed the draft agreement on the framework of trade and economic cooperation between the Chinese and Estonian Governments.

Georgia Not Among Republics Recognized So Far

OW2102141992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1314 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 20 Estonia recognized the independence of Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Earlier, it established full diplomatic relations with Russia and Ukraine.

According to the Estonian government press service, the Estonian Foreign Minister decided to delay the recognition of Georgia's independence since "a military coup had taken place there". Estonia will recognize Georgia only after the political situation stabilizes there.

Lalumiere Says Republic 'Following Right Path'

LD2102202192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpts] And more news from Toompea, where today a news conference took place by Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe.

[Correspondent Ain Saarna] [Passage omitted, biographical detail; Estonia applied for Council of Europe membership last September] Mrs. Lalumiere thought that she had to see things with her own eyes and in Tallinn she had meetings with Arnold Ruutel, Tiit Vahi, Lennart Meri, and representatives of parliamentary factions and minorities.

In conclusion the secretary general of the Council of Europe believes that Estonia is following the right path. She pointed to our economic crisis and the continuing presence of the Russian Army as our main problems. The secretary general emphasized in particular the importance of the elections for the legislative body. Through elections the true level of democracy will emerge. [passage omitted, compromise solution needed for citizenship]

As a man who has been to the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg, my television colleague Aarne Rannamae knew to ask if the visit to Tallinn had diffused the secretary general's pessimism on the Estonian nationality issue.

[Lalumiere in French fading into Estonian report] Mrs. Lalumiere fully agreed that this is how the issue stands. Having been informed on the problems of Estonian minorities, she considered it very important to visit

Estonia herself. Developed Western countries are used to minorities whose numbers do not exceed 10 percent of the total population. In Estonia the percentage is considerably higher, hence perhaps incorrect interpretations of the Estonian situation follow. The secretary general did not have any specific examples of infringement of minority rights in Estonia. [passage omitted, generalities]

No allowances can be made to the army of a foreign country; it must leave. Their human rights, however, must at present be ensured. According to Catherine Lalumiere, the we have been maltreated, now we can have our turn, way of thinking will not lead Estonia to its destination. Even our biggest political hotheads should agree to this.

Transactions Suspended for Bank's Hard Currency

LD2402121192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The USSR Foreign Economic Bank has suspended transactions of the Estonian Bank's hard currency account. This was done by a resolution of the Russian Federation Government on 13 February. The Russian Central Bank disseminated a letter which states that transactions have been suspended indefinitely. Estonian Bank President Siim Kallas viewed this step as a warning in an interview given to PAEVALEHT. According to what he said, a few dozen million dollars are on the abovementioned account. Juri Kahn, Republic of Estonia ambassador in Russia, said to the Baltic News Service that resolving this issue would exceed the roles of the two banks and that this must be discussed at interstate talks. Russia has proposed that the money is used towards paying the USSR foreign debt. Estonian officials have never denied that the state would have to bear a section of the former USSR foreign debt.

Uzbek Delegation Visits, Agreement Signed

LD1602114692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation of the Uzbek Government paid a visit to Tallinn today led by Deputy Prime Minister Kaiyim Khakkulov. During talks at the Estonian Ministry of Transport and Communications, issues of transport cooperation between the two countries were discussed. The Uzbek side was particularly interested in the export of their production and raw materials to the world market via Estonian railways and ports. An agreement was signed which will regulate transport relations between the two countries.

The Uzbek Governmental delegation was shown around the new port of Tallinn, it being a possible port for exporting their goods. In the afternoon the Uzbek deputy prime minister was received by Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi. The Uzbek delegation will go on to Riga from Estonia.

Bush Sends Independence Day Congratulations

OW2102225692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1818 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] U.S.President George Bush has sent congratulations on the February 2 Estonian Independence Day to Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel. On that day in 1918 Estonia proclaimed its independence abolished in 1940.

These congratulations are particularly relevant at this point after Estonia gained real independence, the message says. Over the past 50 years the USA have supported Estonia in its struggle for independence and has always hoped that sooner or later it will regain freedom. "We are hopeful that Estonia and the USA will continue to maintain good friendly relations", George Bush points out.

'Rich Cultural Program'

LD2402135592 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Narva February 24 TASS—Today Estonia is celebrating its independence day. The national blue-black-white flag was hoisted over the ancient German's castle in Narva early in the morning on the occasion of the independence, proclaimed on February 24, 1918 by Konstantin Pyats's government. Estonian frontier-guards serving on the border with Russia, and ministers of the Republican Government saluted the Estonian tricolor. A rich cultural programme will be shown in the course of the national holiday.

Lithuania

Troop Withdrawal, Defense Principles Outlined

OW2402160592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1303 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Home Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius has spelled out the main principles of the Lithuanian Government concerning the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the republic. Butkevicius spoke at an international security conference in Vilnius. The principles are as follows:

First, Lithuania does not recognize any defense interests of the former Soviet Union on Lithuanian territory. Second, Lithuania takes control over all military facilities, land and property on its territory. Third, Lithuania will seek full and rapid withdrawal of troops from its territory.

The Lithuanian Home Defense Ministry has information that currently about 35,000 Russian military servicemen, including 8,000 officers, are stationed in the republic.

Butkevicius said that the defense system of Lithuania is being built according to the "total defense" model. He indicated that Lithuania is carrying out four programs to ensure its security: border control, territorial defense, formation of a regular army and civil defense.

The border control program envisages protection of land, sea and air borders. The program will involve 5,000 people.

The second program concerns preparation of a mobilization reserve, defense of important state facilities and maintenance of the national guard.

Lithuania started to form its regular army with setting up rapid deployment units. In 1993 it plans to increase the strength of existing military units up to 5,000 men.

The civil defense program envisions struggle against misinformation, as well as resistance of the civilian population by both non-violent and active guerilla combat methods.

'Nothing More Than Propaganda'

LD2502120992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0950 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] [Correspondent Guoda Salciute] Last week Russian Television and other mass media reported that the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from the territory of Lithuania would start on 25 February. The anti-aircraft defense battalion should be the first to go from Mickunai, although according to an agreement between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, the withdrawal of the Soviet Army is supposed to start from the capital, Vilnius.

Today's action in Mickunai is probably nothing more than propaganda. This is confirmed by my colleague, Zenonas Miksys, who has just returned from Mickunai:

[Miksys] [passage omitted] This once secret anti-aircraft battalion is registered at the headquarters of the former Soviet army as No. 36839. This battalion should be the first to be withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. Before 1000 this morning 40 journalists, crews of foreign television companies, reporters and commentators of influential newspapers, and officials of the Lithuanian press, radio, and television asembled in front of the iron gates adorned with red stars that separate the outside from the battalion.

Reporters and officials were allowed to pass through the gate only after a Volga car carrying a colonel arrived. Five powerful GAZ vehicles carrying rockets, covered with tarpaulin and camouflage nets, stood by the gate. Their engines were idling. Soldiers of various ranks stood near the vehicles. Further down one could see a radio site. Equipment has been moved from there. It is now empty. On the other side soldiers carried firewood to a store. It seems that they are preparing to continue living here.

During a conversation with journalists, officers stated that they did not know why the withdrawal has been postponed. It should take place today, but now it is scheduled to start on 27 February. First the battalion will be stationed either in Vilnius at the northern townlet or in Visoriai, where the headquarters of this battalion are situated.

Colonel Kirsanov, deputy commander of this battalion, explained very calmly to journalists that the battalion does not have any claims or anger, and that it is ready to leave Lithuania. The battalion commander, Colonel Gerasimenko, said the same. This column was drawn up, as they said, only for journalists to take photographs and to film it. In other words, the Army is withdrawing. Foreign journalists were very indignant. They were prepared to publish photographs on the front pages of their newspapers. They asked why there was movement. Somebody joked that these vehicles have been standing there for the last two weeks on the same spot just starting their engines and switching them off. Soldiers do not know whether they will go to the northern townlet or Visoriai. It is not clear when this will happen.

In spite of this, inspection commissions started their work today. Our republican commission is led by Deputy National Defense Minister Jonas Pauzuolis. Today they will inspect the territory, examine it, check its ecological state, and inspect buildings that are being taken over. Corresponding documents should be signed. Only then will this battalion move from Mickunai. It will be decided in the future whether it will proceed straight toward the border or will be stationed in the northern townlet or Visoriai. The issue remains open.

[Salciute] It is obvious that this is a demonstrative action and a performance.

[Miksys] Yes, it is happening in order to show the world that they have already started the amry withdrawal.

[Salciute] It is very doubtful whether the Russian-Lithuanian communique providing for the start of the Army withdrawal in February will be implemented.

Landsbergis on Withdrawal

OW2402162392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1303 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis believes that the forthcoming withdrawal of an air defense division from Mickunai (The Vilnius region of Lithuania) February 25 does not mean the beginning of Soviet troops withdrawal from the republic.

In a statement made public in Vilnius Monday [24 February], Landsbergis notes that an agreement had been reached with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow January 17 that in the first place military units stationed in the Lithuanian capital would be pulled out.

Landsbergis, Vagnorius Receive NATO Officials

LD2502102392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] General Brian Kenny, deputy senior commander of the Unified Forces in Europe, took part in the Vilnius seminar. Parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius received him and a group of senior NATO officials. European and Baltic regional security problems were discussed, including circumstances of the announced start of the former Soviet army's withdrawal.

General Brian Kenny has also met with the Lithuanian delegation for negotiations with Russia. It has been reported, inter alia, that an agreement has been reached to bring about a visit to Lithuania by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner.

Educational Cooperation With Poland Agreed

LD2202194292 Warsaw PAP in English 2300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Vilnius, Feb. 21—Polish Minister of Education Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski, who arrived in Vilnius Thursday [20 February] at the invitation of Lithuanian educational authorities, and Lithuanian Minister of Culture and Education Darius Kuolys signed Friday [21 February] three documents on Polish-Lithuanian cooperation in education.

These documents are: a three-year agreement on cooperation between Polish Education Ministry and its Lithuanian counterpart, a detailed programme of educational cooperation for 1992, and a document on the creation of a bilateral committee for history textbooks' content.

After the exchange of documents, Minister Stelmachowski took part in a short press conference. Asked about the issue of the Polish University in Vilnius, the registration of which has been demanded by the Polish minority group in Lithuania for a few months, the minister replied that the question had been discussed during the meeting with Lithuanian minister but further arrangements were needed.

After the conference, Minister Stelmachowski paid a visit to a school at Mejshagole, near Vilnius.

Trade Union Association Formed, Plans Noted

LD2402120492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Today a conference of the coordinating center of the independent trade unions formed the Lithuanian Trade Union Association. It consists of eight republican, territorial, and enterprise trade unions. The new organization's aim is to unite and coordinate actions of trade unions in defending the rights amd lawful interests of their members, and also strive for social justice and economic well being, develop democracy, and consolidate Lithuania's independence.